

Independent Remuneration Panel Report – August 2016

Responsible Officer: Head of Communities and Governance and Monitoring Officer

Reason for Report: Following a fundamental review of the Member Allowances Scheme, the report sets out the Independent Remuneration Panel's views and findings for consideration by Council

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- a) The Basic Allowance to be paid to all Councillors remain at the current level of £4691 with any increases being linked to the staff pay award.
- b) That there be a reduction in the weighting applied to the Licensing and Regulatory Committee Chairman's SRA from 0.5 to 0.25.
- c) All other Special Responsibility Allowances be paid to the following Members at the levels indicated:

Position	Weighting x basic	SRA
Leader of the Council	3.00	£14,073
Deputy Leader	1.50	£7,037
Cabinet Member	1.25	£5,864
Scrutiny Committee Chair	1.25	£5,864
PDG Chair	0.75	£3,518
Audit Committee Chair	0.75	£3,518
Planning Committee Chair	1.25	£5,864
Licensing/Regulatory Chair	0.25	£1,173
Standards Chair	0.25	£1,173
Chairman of the Council	0.50	£2,346

- d) To confirm that no Member should be entitled to claim more than **one** Special Responsibility Allowance.
- e) The Leader and Cabinet Members be requested to keep a record of the additional workload experiences as a result of the Greater Exeter proposal and Devolution.
- f) Having received evidence from the Cabinet, a meeting of the Panel be organised to recommend a new scheme of allowances from 1 April 2017.
- (g) That Carers' allowances be calculated on the current basis namely, the actual expenditure up to the national living wage of a person over 25.

(h) That travel allowances be linked to HMRC rates and calculated at the national levels indicated, currently:

- 45p per mile for the first 10,000 miles
- 25p per mile thereafter
- 5p per mile per passenger carried (up to a maximum of 4 passengers payable to the driver)
- 25p per mile for pushbikes

That only travel from within the Mid Devon border to attend an official duty be recompensed to the Member.

(i) That the subsistence allowances be linked to those of the staff, currently these are as follows:

- Breakfast - £7.02
- Lunch - £9.70
- Tea - £3.81
- Dinner - £12.00

(j) That all claims for travel and subsistence reimbursement be accompanied by an appropriate receipt.

(k) That an annual digital allowance of £150 be paid to Members using digital devices only.

(l) That the current Town and Parish Council Scheme of Allowances remain in place.

Relationship to Corporate Plan: None

Financial Implications: Recommendation (a) will not have any financial implications, however recommendation (j) will see a slight increase in the allowance paid to Members using digital devices.

Legal Implications: The Local Authorities (Member's Allowances) Regulations 2003 require that an Independent Remuneration Panel consider Members Allowances and make recommendation to Council

Risk Assessment: Failure to follow the Members Allowances Regulations could leave the Council open to challenge

1.0 Introduction

1.1 At the previous meeting of Council in June 2016, Council agreed to extend the current Members Allowances Scheme with no changes whilst the Independent Remuneration Panel continued its fundamental review.

1.2 The Independent Remuneration Panel has now completed its work.

1.3 The accompanying report from the IRP (Appendix 1) proposes twelve recommendations for consideration by the Council.

Contact for more Information: Amy Tregellas 01884 234246, Monitoring Officer or Sarah Lees 01884 234310, Member Services Officer