

## FULL COUNCIL

### 22 February 2017

## Independent Remuneration Panel Report – February 2017

**Responsible Officer:** Director of Corporate Affairs and Business Transformation

**Reason for Report:** Following a review of the current Member Allowances Scheme, the report sets out the Independent Remuneration Panel's views for consideration by Council to set a scheme of Allowances from 1 April 2017 until 31 March 2018.

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

- a) That the Basic Allowance to be paid to all Councillors remain at the current level of £4,865 pa with any increases being linked to the staff pay award.
- b) That Special Responsibility Allowances be paid to the following Members at the unchanged levels indicated below:

Position	Weighting x basic	SRA
Leader of the Council	3.00	£14,595
Deputy Leader	1.50	£7,298
Cabinet Member	1.25	£6,081
Scrutiny Committee Chair	1.25	£6,081
PDG Chair	0.75	£3,649
Audit Committee Chair	0.75	£3,649
Planning Committee Chair	1.25	£6,081
Licensing/Regulatory Chair	0.25	£1,216
Standards Chair	0.25	£1,216
Chairman of the Council	0.50	£2,433

- c) To confirm that no Member should be entitled to claim more than **one** Special Responsibility Allowance.
- d) Carers' allowances be calculated on the current basis namely, the actual expenditure up to the national living wage of a person over 25.
- e) 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

NB: To be increased in line with HMRC rates from 1 April 2017 once known.

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

- f) 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

NB: To be increased in line with HMRC rates from 1 April 2017 once known.

- g) That all claims for travel and subsistence reimbursement be accompanied by an appropriate receipt.
- h) That an annual digital allowance of £150 continue to be paid to Member using digital devices only.
- i) That the current Town and Parish Council Scheme of Allowances remain in place.
- j) That Members of the Authority are not entitled to pensions and therefore neither the basic allowance nor SRA be treated as an allowance in respect of which pensions are payable.

**Relationship to Corporate Plan:** None

**Financial Implications:** The recommendations do not propose any financial increase therefore there are no additional financial implications for the Council.

**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 a previous meeting of Council in August 2016, Council agreed a Scheme of Members Allowances Scheme with a slight increase in the Basic Allowance which consequently resulted in increases to the Special Responsibility Allowances.

- 1.2 The Independent Remuneration Panel were mindful that only 4 months had elapsed since Council had approved the previous Members Allowances Scheme and in the absence of any evidence to suggest a significant change in the workload of Members the Panel are not recommending any increases at the current time.
- 1.3 The accompanying report from the IRP (Appendix 1) proposes ten recommendations for consideration by the Council. A draft scheme of Members' Allowances for 2017-18 is attached at Appendix 2.

**Contact for more Information:** Jill May, Director of Corporate Affairs and Business Transformation or Sarah Lees 01884 234310, Member Services Officer