

Subject: Members Allowances Scheme
2009/10

Status: For Publication

Report to: Full Council

Date: 26th February 2009

Report of: Executive Director - Business

Portfolio

Holder: Finance and Resources

Key Decision: No – decision for Full Council

Forward Plan General Exception Special Urgency

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To consider the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel and the adoption of a Scheme of Members' Allowances for 2009/10.

2. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

2.1 The matters discussed in this report impact directly on the following corporate priorities and associated corporate objective.

- Well Managed Council (Improvement, Community Network)

3. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

3.1 There are no specific risk issues for members to consider arising from this report.

4. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS

4.1 The Council at its meeting on 27th February 2008 requested a review of the Members' Allowance Scheme that was previously approved by the Council on the 21st February 2007.

4.2 An Independent Remuneration Panel reviews Members Allowances and in order to commence a review, recruitment of additional panel members was required as there is a statutory requirement to have at least 3 members. The recruitment was done by publishing information in the local media and on the Council's website March and interviews took place in early May.

4.3 The Panel commenced its review in June by meeting with the Council's Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources, the Member that requested the review at the Full Council meeting and the Head of Finance. The Panel then considered how to carry out their review which comprised a series of meetings and also:

- Interviews with Members undertaking various roles
- Questionnaire to all Members
- Comparisons with other Authorities

4.4 The Independent Remuneration Panel's Report is attached at Appendix 1 for consideration. The recommendations from this report are detailed below (see Section 9). In carrying out the review the Panel was supported by the Head of Finance, the Committee and Member Services Manager and the Scrutiny Support Officer.

COMMENTS FROM STATUTORY OFFICERS:

5. SECTION 151 OFFICER

5.1 Financial implications arising from the recommendations have been included in the 2009/10 budget proposals

6. MONITORING OFFICER

6.1 The Council needs to have regard to the recommendations of the Panel when determining the Scheme of Allowances.

7. HEAD OF PEOPLE AND POLICY (ON BEHALF OF THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE)

7.1 No human resource implications.

8. CONCLUSION

- 8.1 In determining a Scheme of Allowances for 2009/10, Members will need to take account of the Panel's recommendations, whilst bearing in mind the Council's overall financial and budgetary position.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

That the current scheme for Members' Allowances be amended as follows:-

- 9.1 That the use of the Retail Price Index (RPI) be used from 2009/10 to increase the current basic allowance of £3,300 and that it be set at £3398 for 2009/10 (based on the September 2008 rate) and that this should be reviewed at least every 4 years. As Members had a 12 months increase in October 2008, the RPI rate used to calculate the initial increase for April 2009, under the new scheme, is equivalent to 6 months RPI being 2.97%.
- 9.2 That the payment for Vice-Chairmen be withdrawn.
- 9.3 That the following Special Responsibility Allowances be paid:
- | | |
|--|---------|
| Leader of the Majority or Largest Group | £13,592 |
| Deputy Leader of the Majority or Largest Group | £10,194 |
| Leader of the Minority or Second Largest Group | £6,796 |
| Cabinet Members | £6,796 |
| Chair of Policy Overview and Scrutiny | £3,398 |
| Chair of Performance Overview and Scrutiny | £3,398 |
| Chair of Audit | £3,398 |
| Chair of Standards | £3,398 |
| Chair of Development Control | £6,796 |
| Chair of Licensing | £3,398 |
- 9.4 That in respect of broadband payments Members may claim £10.00 per month towards the rental cost of broadband provision upon production of an appropriate invoice or receipt from the supplier.
- 9.5 That the offer of a Blackberry be included in the Members' Allowance Scheme.
- 9.6 That no additional allowance be paid for IT consumables and this be met from Members' Basic Allowance.
- 9.7 That the Scheme should include a provision for payment to be made to the Information Commissioner under The Data Protection Act and the administration of this to be undertaken by Democratic Services.
- 9.8 That in respect of mileage rates there be no change and that the NJC rates should be used for the payment of mileage allowance.
- 9.9 That Members attending any meetings detailed within the approved duties list should be able to claim for travel allowance.

10. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

10.1 Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources
Head of Finance
Interviews with various Councillors

11. COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Is Community Impact Assessment required No
Is Community Impact Assessment attached No

12. BIODIVERSITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Is a Biodiversity Impact Assessment required No
Is a Biodiversity Impact Assessment attached No

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