

<b>Subject:</b>	Review of the Members' Allowances Scheme		<b>Status:</b>	For Publication	
<b>Report to:</b>	Council		<b>Date:</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> July 2014	
<b>Report of:</b>	Director of Business		<b>Portfolio Holder:</b>	Customers, Legal and Licensing	
<b>Key Decision:</b>	No - reserved for Council	Forward Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	General Exception <input type="checkbox"/>	Special Urgency <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Equality Impact Assessment:</b>	Required:	No	Attached:	No	
<b>Biodiversity Impact Assessment</b>	Required:	No	Attached:	No	
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Stuart Sugarman		<b>Telephone:</b>	01706 252447	
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:stUARTSUGARMAN@rossendalebc.gov.uk">stUARTSUGARMAN@rossendalebc.gov.uk</a>				

<b>1.</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATION(S)</b>
1.1	That no changes be made to the Members' Allowances Scheme for the remainder of this year or for 2015/2016.

## 2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 To consider the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel.

## 3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

3.1 The matters discussed in this report impact directly on the following of the Council's corporate priorities:

- Responsive Value for Money Services: This priority is about the Council working collaboratively, being a provider, procurer and a commissioner of services that are efficient and that meet the needs of local people.

## 4. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

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

## 5. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS

5.1 The Members' Allowances Scheme for 2014/2015 was approved at the Council meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> February subject to a review by an Independent Remuneration Panel. The request for a review came as a result of discussions on the 2014/15 Revenue Budget and Council Tax Setting and the Medium Term Financial Strategy report.

5.2 Members' allowances must be reviewed by an Independent Remuneration Panel, and the panel convened in June to undertake the review.

5.3 In advance of the review meeting, group leaders and deputy group leaders were asked to submit a report to the panel outlining their views on the Members' Allowances Scheme. Group leaders and deputy group leaders were also invited to meet with the panel to discuss their views and answer any questions.

5.4 Panel members discussed and considered many elements when reviewing the Members' Allowances Scheme, including:

- The number of councillors and the need to contribute to debate.
- The need to maintain the corporate knowledge base.

- The different responsibilities of the chairs.
- The different special responsibilities.
- Expertise required.
- Councillor responsibilities on outside bodies.
- Dialogue and work with partners.
- Recompense rather than reward.
- Councillor job description and responsibilities.
- Decision making in relation to council finances and savings.
- The need for stability.
- Allowances were middle to bottom compared with other Pennine Lancashire authorities.
- Mileage costs and travel.
- Total cost of the scheme.

5.5 After considering all evidence submitted and meeting with the Deputy Leader of the Council and Leader of the Opposition. The panel recommended that no changes be made to the current scheme as the panel felt that more change would have a destabilising effect, particularly given the proposals for change that councillors would need to consider over the next 2 years.

5.6 Should any changes be made to the number of councillors and/or the frequency of the election cycle, the panel would commence a new review. Particular emphasis would be given to:

- Any new committee/council structure.
- The workload of each the committee chairs.
- Special responsibility allowances.
- The time element and impact of councillor workloads.

**COMMENTS FROM STATUTORY OFFICERS:**

**6. SECTION 151 OFFICER**

6.1 Financial implications are noted within the report.

**7. MONITORING OFFICER**

7.1 The Council needs to have regard to the recommendations of the panel when determining the Members' Allowances Scheme.

**8. POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT**

8.1 Consultation carried out with group leaders and deputy group leaders.

8.2 No HR implications arising from this report.

**9. CONCLUSION**

9.1 In determining a Members' Allowances Scheme, members will need to take account of the panel's recommendations, whilst bearing in mind the Council's overall financial and budgetary position.

**Background Papers**

Document	Place of Inspection
Members' Allowances Scheme 2014/2015	Committee and Member Services – room 213