

Subject:	Review of the Members' Allowances Scheme		Status:	For Publication	
Report to:	Council		Date:	30 th September 2015	
Report of:	Independent Remuneration Panel		Portfolio Holder:	Resources and Performance	
Key Decision:	No – reserved for Council	Forward Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	General Exception <input type="checkbox"/>	Special Urgency <input type="checkbox"/>	
Equality Impact Assessment:		Required:	No	Attached:	No
Biodiversity Impact Assessment		Required:	No	Attached:	No
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1.	RECOMMENDATIONS
1.1	The Independent Remuneration Panel make the following recommendation to Council: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To increase the special responsibility allowance for the Chair of the Development Control Committee to £5,013. To fund the increase from the savings made as a result of the restructure following the Annual Meeting on 22nd May 2015. That the special responsibility allowance for the Chair of the Development Control Committee be backdated to 23rd May 2015 to coincide with the commencement of the new structure.
1.2	To amend the Members' Allowances Scheme and the Council's Constitution in accordance with any agreed changes.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 2.1 To consider the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel in relation to the Members' Allowances Scheme. This is following changes made at the Annual Meeting in May 2015 to the committee structure and special responsibility roles.

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 All the issues raised and the recommendation in this report involve risk considerations as set out below:
- Any changes agreed will need to be reflected in the Council's Constitution and the Members' Allowances Scheme.

5. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS

- 5.1 The Members' Allowances Scheme for 2015/2016 was approved at the Council meeting on 25th February 2015. This reflected minor changes to the wording of the scheme which had been agreed by the Independent Remuneration Panel following a recommendation from the Council's auditors.

- 5.2 The Independent Remuneration Panel last reviewed the scheme on 4th June 2014 and recommended no further changes unless the following occurred prior to the next review:
- changes to the number of councillors.
 - changes to the frequency of the election cycle
- 5.3 Whilst the above instances have not occurred, changes to the committee structure and changes to some of the special responsibility positions were agreed at the Council's Annual Meeting in May. In light of the changes made at the Annual Meeting, the Independent Remuneration Panel was asked to conduct an interim review.
- 5.4 At the Annual Meeting on 22nd May 2015 members agreed to merge Corporate Overview and Scrutiny (6 meetings and year) and Partner Overview and Scrutiny (3-4 meetings a year) to create one Overview and Scrutiny Committee. In addition to this, the Leader rearranged the Cabinet portfolio holder positions and reduced from 6 portfolios to 5.
- 5.5 These changes have made financial savings in one chairperson position at £3342 and one Cabinet member position at £6,684 (total £10,026).
- 5.6 Following these changes, the Leader of the Council considered the new structure and positions and asked the Independent Remuneration Panel to consider the following changes to the Members' Allowances Scheme:
- To increase the special responsibility allowance for the Chair of the Development Control Committee to £6,684.
 - To fund the increase from the savings made as a result of the restructure following the Annual Meeting in May.
 - That the special responsibility allowance for the Chair of the Development Control Committee be backdated to 23rd May 2015 to coincide with the start of the new structure.
- 5.7 Whilst the workload has increased for the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and for the Cabinet members they are prepared to make this contribution to the ongoing need to reduce costs. However, in relation to the Development Control Committee Chair position, it is considered that the current allowance does not compensate for the duties and the required responsibilities.
- 5.8 At present there are 10 scheduled Development Control meetings a year, with the ability to add additional meetings if workloads exceed expectations of the service, or to add special meetings where required. For each scheduled meeting there is a Chair's Briefing Meeting as part of the agenda setting process, plus a site visit the week prior to the committee. In addition, the chairperson is responsible for meeting regularly with the Planning Manager and planning officers, and is also responsible for considering the validity of planning call-in's received by the Planning Team from elected ward members. It is therefore considered that the current special responsibility allowance is not sufficient to compensate for the required duties.
- 5.9 This structure would create a financial saving of £6,684 per year on an ongoing basis.
- 5.10 The Leader of the Opposition was consulted on the proposals, and both the Leader of the Council and Deputy Leader of the Opposition met with the Independent Remuneration Panel to discuss their views on the proposals and to answer any questions from the panel.
- 5.11 The Independent Remuneration Panel considered the report and group representations at the meeting on 17th August 2015.

- 5.12 In making their recommendations, the panel noted that whilst they recognised the increased responsibility and workload of the Chair of the Development Control Committee, it was not the same amount of responsibility and accountability as a Cabinet member.
- 5.13 The panel concluded that there should be an increase in the special responsibility allowance for the Chair of Development Control Committee, but the amount should be mid-way between that of a chairperson and a Cabinet member. The panel also agreed that the increase should be funded from the savings made as a result of the restructure and that the increase be backdated to coincide with the commencement of the new structure.

COMMENTS FROM STATUTORY OFFICERS:

6. SECTION 151 OFFICER

- 6.1 There is a marginal budget saving arising from the recommendations.

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 No HR implications arising from this report.
- 8.2 Consultation with Independent Remuneration Panel, Political Group Leaders and Statutory Officers.

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 2015/2016	Committee and Member Services – room 213
The Constitution of the Council	www.rossendale.gov.uk/constitution

Schedule 1

SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY ALLOWANCES

The following are specified as special responsibilities in respect of which special responsibility allowances are payable in the amounts stated.

LEADERS/DEPUTY LEADERS

£

Leader of the majority or largest group	13,368
Deputy Leader of the majority or largest group	10,026
Leader of the minority or second largest group	6,684

CABINET MEMBERS

Cabinet Member	6,684
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COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Overview and Scrutiny Committee	3,342
Audit and Accounts Committee	3,342
Development Control	3,342 <u>5,013</u>
Licensing	3,342

COMMITTEE VICE-CHAIRS

Development Control (*a one off payment will be made for each meeting where the Vice-chair is required to chair the full meeting).	*150
Licensing (*a one off payment will be made for each meeting where the Vice-chair is required to chair the full meeting).	*150