

Report to: **Council**  
Date: **26 July 2016**  
Title: **MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES REVIEW**  
Portfolio Area: **Strategy and Commissioning**

Wards Affected: **All**

Urgent Decision: **N** Approval and clearance obtained: **Y**

Date next steps can be taken:  
(e.g. referral on of recommendation or implementation of substantive decision) **Immediately following this meeting.**

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## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

**That the Council RESOLVES that the Basic Allowance be increased by 1% (from £4,200 to £4,242 per annum) and that this be backdated to the 1 May 2016.**

### **1. Executive summary**

- 1.1 It is a responsibility of the Council to consider (and ultimately approve) a Scheme of Members Allowances.
- 1.2 This latest review seeks to increase the Basic Allowance by 1%, which is line with the Staff Pay Award.

### **2. Background**

- 2.1 The Council is required by legislation to appoint an Independent Remuneration Panel to make recommendations in relation to its Scheme of Members Allowances.

2.2 Some Members will recall that the Panel last met on Monday, 23 March 2015 and proceeded to make a number of recommendations to the Council.

### 3. Options available and consideration of risk

3.1 One of the Panel recommendations (that was subsequently agreed by the Council at its meeting on 31 March 2015) was that the Basic Allowance should be aligned to a prescribed Index and that the staff pay award was the appropriate measure (Minute CM 98 refers).

3.2 The Council has recently been informed that the staff pay award for 2016/17 will be 1%, which would result in the Council's Basic Allowance increasing from £4,200 and £4,242.

3.2 Assuming that this recommendation is approved by Council, the implications on the Revised Allowances Schedule are outlined at Appendix A.

3.3 Should the Council consider that a more widespread review of its Scheme of Members' Allowances is required, this would necessitate the need for the Remuneration Panel to be reconvened.

3.4 The Council could also opt against increasing the Basic Allowance. However, in recognising that the Basic Allowance is already in the lowest quartile when benchmarked against other local authorities, the Remuneration Panel has previously recommended against following this course of action.

### 4. Implications

Legal/Governance		<p>The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003.</p> <p>The Council has a statutory requirement to adopt a Scheme of Members Allowances and to consider the recommendations of its Independent Panel in doing so.</p>
Financial		<p>If the recommended increase is approved, there is a potential cost to the Council of £1,711. However, since Members can only claim one Special Responsibility Allowance and the Leader of Council is also currently the Chairman of the Planning and Licensing Committee and the Leader of the Independent Group is also a Hub Committee Member, this potential total cost will not be realised at this time.</p>
Risk		<p>There is a reputational risk if the Council does not have regard to the recommendations of its</p>

		Independent Panel before approving its Scheme of Members' Allowances.
Comprehensive Impact Assessment Implications		
Equality and Diversity		There are no equality and diversity implications directly related to this report.
Safeguarding		There are no safeguarding implications directly related to this report.
Community Safety, Crime and Disorder		There are no community safety or crime and disorder implications directly related to this report.
Health, Safety and Wellbeing		There are no health, safety and wellbeing implications directly related to this report.
Other implications		N/A

### **Supporting Information**

#### **Appendices:**

- A. Revised Allowances Schedule

#### **Background Papers:**

The Scheme of Members' Allowances: 2015/16

The report submitted to the Special Council meeting on 31 March 2015 and the approved minutes arising from this meeting.