

Report to: **Council**  
Date: **11 February 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.**

Author: **Darryl White**  
**Senior Specialist –**  
**Democratic**  
**Services**

Contact: [darryl.white@swdevon.gov.uk](mailto:darryl.white@swdevon.gov.uk)

---

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

**That the Council RESOLVES that the recommendations of the Independent Panel on Members' Allowances (as presented at Appendix A) be agreed and that the revised Scheme of Members Allowances (as shown at presented Appendix C) be adopted with immediate effect, with any consequent increases in Allowances backdated to 11 May 2015.**

### **1. Executive summary**

1.1 The Council's Independent Panel on Members' Allowances was convened on Wednesday, 27 January 2016 and made a series of recommendations on a revised Scheme of Members' Allowances.

### **2. Background**

2.1 In accordance with the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003, it is a requirement that any changes to a Council's Scheme of Members' Allowances are considered initially by an Independent Panel appointed for that purpose which then makes recommendations to the Council.

2.2 The Council last considered its Scheme of Members' Allowances at its meeting on 18 December 2014. In so doing, Members concluded that the next review should take place during the 2015/16 Municipal Year once the impact of the new Council of 31 Members and the revised governance arrangements had been given the opportunity to settle down (Minute 56/14 refers).

### 3. Options available and consideration of risk

3.1 A copy of the Panel's report (and various recommendations) is attached at Appendix A. The key recommended changes to the Scheme (proposed to be backdated to 11 May 2015) are also outlined below:-

- To increase the Basic Allowance to £5,000 per annum;
- To align future increases to the Annual Staff Pay Award;
- To increase the Special Responsibility Allowance entitlement for the Overview and Scrutiny Panel Chairman role to 1 x the Basic Allowance;
- To establish a Special Responsibility Allowance entitlement for the Overview and Scrutiny Panel Vice Chairman role (set at 0.5 x the Basic Allowance); and
- To update the Dependants' Carers Allowance in line with the National Living Wage.

3.2 A summary of the budget implications arising from the recommendations of the Panel is shown at Appendix B.

3.3 The proposed Scheme of Members' Allowances, incorporating the Panel's recommendations, is attached at Appendix C.

3.4 It is recognised that the Council's current Scheme is out of date and this review creates the opportunity for it to be updated and relevant.

### 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 all of the recommendations are endorsed by the Council, there will be an overall financial saving of £31,797.</p>

Risk		There is a reputational risk if the Council does not have regard to the recommendations of its Independent Panel before approving its revised Scheme of Members' Allowances.
<b>Comprehensive Impact Assessment Implications</b>		
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. Report of the Independent Panel on Members' Allowances and Parish Remuneration Panel;
- B. Summary of the Budget implications arising from the Panel recommendations; and
- C. Copy of the proposed Scheme of Members' Allowances

#### **Background Papers:**

The Scheme of Members' Allowances: 2014/15

The report submitted to the meeting of the Independent Panel held on 27 January 2016

### **Approval and clearance of report**

<b>Process checklist</b>	<b>Completed</b>
Portfolio Holder briefed	<b>Yes</b>
SLT Rep briefed	<b>No</b>
Relevant Exec Director sign off (draft)	<b>No</b>
Data protection issues considered	<b>Yes</b>
If exempt information, public (part 1) report also drafted. (Executive/Scrutiny)	<b>N/A</b>