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## **Members' Allowances**

### **Report by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services**

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#### **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The Independent Remuneration Panel in their review of the Members' Allowances Scheme in 2010 recommended – 'that Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances should be adjusted annually with effect from the date of the Annual Council Meeting commencing in 2012 to reflect any increase in inflation using as an automatic index mechanism the percentage change for spinal column point 33 approved by the National Joint Council for Local Government Staff Services and negotiated as the pay award for Local Government employees.'
- 1.2 Such mechanism should be applied until 30th April 2015 or until such time as the Independent Remuneration Panel recommends otherwise.
- 1.3 This recommendation was approved by the Council at their meeting held on 15th December 2010.

#### **2. 2013/14 NJC PAY AWARD**

- 2.1 After lengthy negotiations, the NJC for Local Government Services (the Employers') have announced that agreement has been reached to increase pay for local government employees by 1% with effect from 1st April 2013.
- 2.2 Although a departure from the scheme, should Members decide not to accept an increase, this would not set a precedent for future years nor require further reference to the Independent Remuneration Panel.

#### **3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 The original budget forecast a 2% increase in allowances amounting to £7,400. Therefore an increase in line with NJC rates would save £3700.
- 3.2 A decision not to apply an increase would save the whole £7,400.

#### **4. RECOMMENDATION**

- 4.1 The Council is requested to determine whether to apply to Members Allowances the percentage increase of 1% approved by the NJC for Local Government Services.

**Contact Officer:** Christine Deller, Democratic Services Manager  
☎ 01480 388007

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

District Council Constitution 2012

Letters from the Local Government Association dated 22nd October 2012 and  
NJC Trade Union Side pay claim 2013/2014 dated 17th October 2012.