

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Title/Subject Matter: Members' Allowances Scheme – Corporate Governance Committee

Council – 21st December 2016

Executive Portfolio: Councillor J A Gray – Executive Councillor for Strategic Resources

Report by: Elections and Democratic Services Manager (LJ)

Ward(s) affected: None

Executive Summary:

The Members' Allowances Scheme is enclosed in Part 6 of the Council's Constitution. It is reviewed every four years by an Independent Remuneration Panel. The Scheme was last reviewed in May 2015 after consideration of the outcome of the Review of Members' Allowances by the Independent Remuneration Panel. The Council at their meeting held on 20th May 2016 agreed that no changes be made to the existing Members' Allowances Scheme.

As a result of a review to the Council's Constitution that was approved at the meeting of the Council held on 23rd March 2016, it was agreed that the former Standards Committee be incorporated into the Terms of Reference of the new Corporate Governance Committee and membership increased. In the light of the additional responsibilities of this Committee, it has been suggested that the Members' Allowances Scheme be updated to make changes to the Special Responsibility Allowances for the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee.

Recommendation:

That Part 6 of the Council's Constitution be updated to increase the Special Responsibility Allowances for the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Corporate Governance Committee to reflect the same level as the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Employment Committee and that the appropriate adjustments to be backdated to 18th May 2016.

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 Following the review of the Council's Constitution to consider a minor adjustment to Part 6 – the Members' Allowances Scheme.

2. WHY IS THIS REPORT NECESSARY/BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Council undertook a review of the Council's Constitution and approved changes at their meeting on 23rd March 2016. The former Standards Committee was deleted and the Terms of Reference of the Corporate Governance Committee were amended to include responsibility for their functions. This includes functions relating to the conduct of Members to be considered by a sub-committee of Corporate Governance.
- 2.2 A Review of Members' Allowances was undertaken by the Independent Remuneration Panel in May 2015 and since the last review the Corporate Governance Committee has also acquired the Audit function, as well as the changes outlined in paragraph 2.1 above. Although the Council agreed to make no changes to the existing Members' Allowances Scheme in May 2015, the Independent Remuneration Panel recommended that the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the Employment Committee and Corporate Governance Committee are paid the same Special Responsibility Allowance. Currently there is a differential of £811 and £278 between the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of both Committees respectively.

3. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 In accordance with the current Members' Allowances Scheme approved in May 2011 and reconfirmed at Council in May 2015, the Chairman's Allowance would result in an increase of £811 per annum and £278 per annum for the Vice-Chairman's allowance.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDED DECISIONS

- 4.1 As a result of changes to the Terms of Reference of the Corporate Governance Committee following a review of the Council's Constitution, it is recommended that the Members' Scheme of Allowances be amended to increase the Special Responsibility Allowances of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman to bring them in line with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Employment Committee to reflect the additional responsibilities that the Committee has assumed.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Constitution – the Council's current Constitution is available for review and comparison on the Council's website.

<http://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/media/1367/constitution.pdf>

The Seventh Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel – May 2015

CONTACT OFFICER

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