

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Title/Subject Matter: Members' Allowances – Annual Adjustment
Meeting/Date: Council – 21st February 2018
Executive Portfolio: Councillor G J Bull – Executive Leader
Report by: Elections and Democratic Services Manager
Ward(s) affected: All

Executive Summary:

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 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.'

Such mechanism should be applied until 30th April 2015 or until such time as the Independent Remuneration Panel recommends otherwise. This recommendation was approved by the Council at their meeting held on 15th December 2010.

The Independent Remuneration Panel undertook a further review of the Members' Allowances Scheme in May 2015 and Members recommended that the existing Members' Allowances Scheme be retained.

Recommendation:

the Council is requested to determine whether to apply to Members' Allowances the percentage increase of 2% as proposed by the NJC for Local Government Services.

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 In accordance with the recommendation of the Independent Remuneration Panel in the review of the Members' Allowances Scheme the Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances should be adjusted annually with effect from the date of the Annual Council meeting.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Members agreed that any increase in Members' Allowances should reflect any increase in inflation using the percentage change for spinal column point 33 approved by the National Joint Council for Local Government Staff Services and the negotiated pay award for Local Government employees.

3. 2018-2019 NJC PAYSCALES AND ALLOWANCES

- 3.1 The National Joint Council for Local Government Services (the Employers') have put forward their proposals for changing the spinal column points (SCP) which increases the SCPs by different percentages. For SCP 33 (new SCP 27) the increase proposed is 2% with effect from 1st April 2018 and a further 2% from 1st April 2019. As yet no agreement has been reached on these proposals.
- 3.2 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.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 An increase in line with NJC rates would cost £7,935 per year. Members should note that included in the budget is nil increase for Members Allowances and a 1% increase for staff.

5. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDED DECISIONS

- 5.1 Members are invited to determine whether to apply the increase to Members' Allowances in accordance with the recommendation of the Independent Remuneration Panel.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

District Council Constitution – 23rd March 2016

Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel – November 2010, May 2015

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