

**HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**Title/Subject Matter:** Members' Allowances  
**Meeting/Date:** Council – 17th October 2018  
**Executive Portfolio:** Executive Leader – Councillor G J Bull  
**Report by:** Elections and Democratic Services Manager  
**Ward(s) affected:** All

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**Executive Summary:**

The current Members' Allowances Scheme was approved by the Council on 15th December 2010 and came into effect on 18th May 2011. This forms part of the Council's Constitution.

The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 require an authority to have regard to recommendations made to it by an Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) before making or amending a scheme of members' allowances.

In addition, the Regulations require that where an authority has regard to an index for the purpose of annual adjustment of allowances it must not rely on that index for longer than a period of four years before seeking a further recommendation from the Independent Remuneration Panel.

The Huntingdonshire Panel was convened in August 2018 in response to the statutory requirement for a review of the index used for the past four years. Accordingly, the Remuneration Panel was presented with general terms of reference, namely to undertake a full review of the Council Members' Allowances scheme that takes into account any recent changes in governance and to make any necessary amendments.

**Recommendations:**

**The Council is invited to consider the Panel's recommendations and to implement the backdating with effect from 17th October 2018**

- (a) the level of basic allowance for all District Councillors as outlined in the attached Appendix;**
- (b) the discontinuation of the Members IT and telephone support allowance;**
- (c) the levels of Special Responsibility Allowances as outlined in the attached Appendix;**
- (d) the continuation of the one Special Responsibility Allowance rule, with the exception of the Members of the Development Management Committee;**

- (e) the continuation of payment of the Independent Person and Deputy Independent Person allowance of £1,000 and £500 respectively per annum;**
- (f) the continuation of the arrangements for the payment of dependent carer's allowances;**
- (g) the level of child care rates be amended and set at the National Living Wage;**
- (h) the continuation of the terms and conditions and the rates payable for travel and subsistence based on the mileage rates published by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs for reimbursement of mileage incurred in undertaking approved duties; and**
- (i) the indices to be used for indexation purposes to enable the Members' Allowances Scheme to be adjusted until 30th April 2022 as outlined in the attached Appendix.**

**The Council is also invited to revoke the existing Members' Allowances Scheme with effect from 17th October 2018 and to authorise the Managing Director to prepare a new scheme of Members' Allowances to reflect the outcome of the Council's deliberations and to take any consequential action arising therefrom.**

## **1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to consider the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel with regard to a review of the Council's Members' Allowances Scheme.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Independent Remuneration Panel has undertaken a review of the Members' Allowances Scheme. The current Scheme has been in existence since 18th May 2011. A further review was undertaken by the Panel in 2015 and Members agreed at the meeting of the Council on 20th May 2015 to retain the existing Members' Allowances Scheme.
- 2.2 As a prelude to their review, the Panel was advised of Council's financial pressures and in making any recommendations arising from the review should be broadly cost neutral.

## **3. CONSIDERATIONS**

- 3.1 The Panel met on 30th August 2018 to review the Members' Allowances Scheme following the move to whole Council elections in May 2018 and the revised ward boundaries. This was following a review by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.
- 3.2 The Panel's report is attached at Appendix 1. The report is based on the Panel's discussions and summarises the principal issues. A summary of the changes appears in Appendix 2. The Council is requested to consider the recommendations set out in the report and agree a Members' Allowances Scheme to take effect from 17th October 2018.

## **4. CONSULTATION**

- 4.1 A questionnaire was sent to all Councillors prior to the Panel convening, inviting comments on the existing Scheme, and invitations were extended to all Members to address the Panel on the day.

## **5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 In setting its Members' Allowances levels, the Council is obliged to have regard to the recommendations of an Independent Remuneration Panel established for this purpose.

## **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 If the proposed changes are made to the Members' Allowances Scheme, allowing for an increase in the basic allowance and recommending revisions to Special Responsibility Allowances, there would be no overall increase to the budget.

## **7. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDED DECISIONS**

- 7.1 Part 6 of the Council's Constitution provides for the Council to adopt a Members' Allowances Scheme and review it annually.

## **8. LIST OF APPENDICES INCLUDED**

Appendix 1 – A Review of Members' Allowances for Huntingdonshire District Council. The Eighth Report by the Independent Remuneration Panel. September 2018

Appendix 2 – Summary of Members' Allowances Changes

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

## **CONTACT OFFICER**

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