

Report of Head of Legal and Democratic Services

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To: COUNCIL

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## Councillors' allowances scheme

### Recommendations

To:

1. consider the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel set out in its report attached as appendix 1;
2. agree a revised councillors' allowances scheme with effect from 11 May 2015, taking into consideration the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel subject to the approval of the necessary budget as part of the council's budget setting process for 2015/16; and
3. authorise the head of legal and democratic services to finalise a councillors' allowances scheme based on the decision in 2 above, to make any consequential amendments to the constitution, and advertise the changes.

### Purpose of Report

1. To consider the report and the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel on a revised councillors' allowances scheme and to agree a scheme of allowances to run from 11 May 2015.

### Background

2. The Local Government Act 2000 requires the council to appoint an independent remuneration panel to review its councillors' allowances scheme and make recommendations on the level of allowances to be paid. Council is responsible for setting the scheme of allowances having regard to the panel's recommendations.

3. The last full review of the allowances was in 2008. Council agreed to adopt the scheme recommended by the panel.

### **Panel report**

4. Following several meetings in between March and November 2014, the panel has made recommendations for a scheme of allowances to run from 11 May 2015.
5. The panel's recommendations and the reasons for these are set out in appendix 1.

### **Financial Implications**

6. The 2015/16 draft base budget currently has £203,170 provision for councillors' basic allowances and £75,000 for special responsibility allowances. The total proposed budget provision for councillors' allowances in 2014/15 is £277,140.

### **Legal Implications**

7. The council is required to establish an Independent Remuneration Panel under the Local Government Act 2000 and the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) Regulations 2003. Under the legislation, Council is required to have regard to the recommendations of the panel when making or revising a scheme of allowances. However it does not have to accept the recommendations if it does not consider them appropriate.

### **Conclusion**

8. The Independent Remuneration Panel has undertaken a review of the councillors' allowances scheme. Council is requested to consider the recommendations set out in the report and agree a scheme of allowances to run from 8 May 2015, immediately after the district council elections.