

17 May 2017

Annual Council

Members Allowances 2017/18

Report of: *Steve Summers*

Wards Affected: *All Wards*

This report is: *Public*

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Council operates a Members' Allowances Scheme which is reviewed annually by the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP). The IRP have reviewed the current scheme and have made recommendations for the 2017/18 Municipal Year.
- 1.2 The Members' Allowance Scheme is Part 6 of the Council's Constitution and the IRP's report is attached as Appendix A. The IRP report has recommended no change to members allowances for 2017/18.
- 1.3 Following their review and consideration of Members Allowances for 2017/18, as set out in Appendix B, the Independent Remuneration Panel were advised and noted that the Audit & Scrutiny Committee would be split into a separate Audit Committee and Corporate Projects Scrutiny Committee due to the need for the scrutiny of the Council's major projects. The Panel also noted that the committees were non – executive and that the Chairs and Vice Chairs would be receiving 50% of the agreed allowance so there be would no overall increase of the cost of members allowances for 2017/18.

2. Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 That the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel at Appendix A be noted.**
- 2.2 That the Members Allowances at Appendix B be agreed.**

3. Introduction and Background

- 3.1 The Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 require councils to establish an *Independent Remuneration Panel*. The Council cannot alter or update its existing Scheme of Members Allowances without first considering a report from the Independent Remuneration Panel.
- 3.2 Local authority elected Members are entitled to receive allowances to compensate them for the role that they do and the responsibilities they assume on behalf of the communities they serve. A 'Basic Allowance' is paid to all Members of the authority to reflect the roles that they undertake. A 'Special Responsibility Allowance', is paid to those Members that have particular responsibilities within the Council's constitutional arrangements.
- 3.3 No additional subsistence or travel allowances are paid. However, Annual Council 2013 resolved that 'reasonable expenses' for external training and conferences are reimbursed, as required, and only with advance agreement of the Head of Paid Services.

4. Issue, Options and Analysis of Options

- 4.1 The analysis of options by the IRP is set out in detail in Sections 8 to 11 of their report as attached at Appendix A.

5. Reasons for Recommendation

- 5.1 The Local Authorities (members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 require that before Council can determine its Members Allowances for the forthcoming Municipal Year, it must consider a report from the Independent Remuneration Panel.

6. Consultation

- 6.1 The Independent Remuneration Panel held informal discussions with Officers at the beginning of April 2016 and considered a series of contextual information which is set out within their report.

7. References to Corporate Plan

- 7.1 The priority area of *A Modern Council* provided for the Council to improve its governance arrangements leading to a faster, more effective decision

making. The IRP examined the changes to governance arrangements in preparation of its recommendations.

8. Implications

Financial Implications

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- 8.1 A provision for Members Allowance as outlined in recommendation 2.2 of this report is included within the 2017/18 budget.

Legal Implications

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- 8.2 The statutory requirements on the Council are set out in the body of the report and the recommendations sets out the necessary steps to ensure compliance.

Other Implications (where significant) – i.e. Health and Safety, Asset Management, Equality and Diversity, Risk Management, Section 17 – Crime & Disorder, Sustainability, ICT.

- 8.3 None.

9. Background Papers (include their location and identify whether any are exempt or protected by copyright)

- 9.1 Annual reports of the Independent Remuneration Panel to Brentwood Borough Council are publicly available at www.brentwood.gov.uk

10. Appendices to this report

- Appendix A – Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel 2017/18.
- Appendix B – Schedule of proposed Members Allowances for 2017/18.

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