

18 May 2016

Annual Council

Members' Allowances 2016/17

Report of: Steve Summers, Group Manager In-House Services

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 2016/17 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 2016/17.

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. (to follow)**

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 *Transformation* 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 2016/17 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 2016/17.

Appendix B – Schedule of proposed Members Allowances for 2016/17.
(to follow)

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