

**Meeting: COUNCIL**

**Agenda Item:**

**14**

Portfolio Area: Members' Services

**Date: 25 FEBRUARY 2015**

## **OFFICER REPORT – MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME 2015-2016**

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### **1. PURPOSE**

1.1 To recommend to Council a Members' Allowances Scheme for 2015-2016.

### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 That a Members' Allowances Scheme be agreed for 2015-2016 as set out in Appendix A, attached.

### **3. BACKGROUND**

3.1 Local authorities are required to make a Members' Allowances Scheme before the beginning of each financial year having considered a report of an Independent Remuneration Panel.

3.2 At its meeting on 26 February 2014 the Council adopted a new Members' Allowances Scheme based on the recommendations of an Independent Panel that had undertaken a comprehensive review in November and December 2011. The Panel reviewed aspects of the Scheme in the summer of 2013 and its recommendations for amendments were approved by Council on 9 October 2013.

3.3 The Scheme recommended is the same as that agreed by Council on 26 February 2014.

3.4 The Scheme recommended includes provision for allowances to be index linked to officer (NJC) pay awards. Accordingly the recent pay rise of 2.2% to NJC staff has been incorporated into the allowances shown at Appendix A with effect from 1 January 2015.

### **4. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED COURSE OF ACTIONS AND OTHER OPTIONS**

4.1 Council is being recommended to approve a Scheme for 2015/2014 based on

the latest recommendations of the Independent Panel as there has been no amendment to the political management structure of the Council upon which those recommendations were based.

4.2 It is anticipated that the Panel will be convened in the coming financial year.

## **5. IMPLICATIONS**

### **5.1 Financial Implications**

The budget provision for the Members Allowances Scheme in 2015/2016, inclusive of travel and subsistence is £459,090 which is sufficient to fund the proposed Scheme.

### **5.2 Legal Implications**

The provisions of the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 have directed the convening of the Independent Panel. The appended draft Scheme for 2015-2016 is in accord with that recommended by the Panel.

## **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

- Report of Independent Panel – February 2012
- Report of Independent Panel – October 2013
- Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003

## **APPENDICES**

- Appendix A - Recommended Scheme for 2015-2016