

**Meeting:** Council

**Date:** 28<sup>TH</sup> March 2007

**MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME**

Author – Jackie Cansick Ext. No. 2216

Contributor - Paul Froggatt Ext.No. 2212

Lead Officer – Ian Paske Ext.No. 2225

**1 PURPOSE**

To make a Members Allowances Scheme for the year 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008.

**2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 To make a Members' Allowances Scheme in the form set out in the appendix to this report.

**3 DETAILS**

3.1 Local authorities are now required to make a Members' Allowance Scheme before the beginning of each financial year whether or not the existing scheme is to be altered.

3.2 In June 2006 an independent panel made recommendations to the Council on a revised Members' Allowances Scheme. On 12<sup>th</sup> July 2006 the Council adopted the Scheme proposed.

3.3 Council indicated that an Independent panel should be convened again in 2007 to consider the current scheme and take account of any revisions to the political management structure. It is likely therefore that the Panel will meet early in the new Municipal Year and therefore take account of any changes to the political management structure that may be agreed by Annual Council.

3.4 Before local authorities can amend schemes they must commission a report from an independent panel and consider their recommendations. The current Scheme may however continue in its present form, though no further indexation may be applied, however, the Panel, following its consideration of the Scheme later this year, may recommend the backdating of any indexation of allowances currently paid.

3.4 It is therefore proposed that the current Members' Allowances Scheme continues unchanged from July 2006. Travel and subsistence allowances are fixed at the rate payable from time to time to officers.

**4 IMPLICATIONS**

**4.1 Financial Implications**

Provision has been made in the 2007/2008 draft Revenue Budget to fund the Scheme

## **4.2 Legal Implications**

The above details take account of the legal implications

### **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

- Review of the Scheme of Councillors' Allowances for Stevenage Borough Council  
The Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel – November 2003
- A Supplementary Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel – June 2004
- The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003
- Report of Independent Remuneration Panel June 2006
- 2006/2007 Members' Allowances Scheme

### **APPENDIX**

Proposed Members' Allowances Scheme 2006/2007