

Meeting: COUNCIL
Date: 27 February 2008

Agenda Item:
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OFFICER REPORT - MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME

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1 PURPOSE

1.1 To recommend to Council a Members' Allowances Scheme for 2008-2009

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That a Members' Allowances Scheme be agreed for 2008-2009 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 whether or not the existing scheme is to be altered.

4 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED COURSE OF ACTIONS AND OTHER OPTIONS

4.1 In October 2007 an Independent Panel made recommendations to the Council on a revised Members' Allowances Scheme. The new Scheme was adopted on 3rd October 2008 and it is this Scheme that is recommended to Council for adoption for 2008-2009.

4.2 On the recommendation of the Independent Panel Council agreed that the Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances (SRAs) payable under the Scheme be index linked to the NJC national salary awards for local government staff for a maximum period of four years, with effect from 1st April 2007. Accordingly, the detailed figures in the Scheme recommended will be increased in line with any NJC national salary awards approved over the next financial year.

5.1 Financial Implications

Provision has been made in the 2008/2009 draft Revenue Budget to fund the recommended 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 2008/2009 is in accord with that recommended by the Panel.

BACKGROUND

- Report of Independent Panel - August 2007
- Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003

APPENDICES

- Appendix A - Recommended Scheme for 2008/2009