

**Meeting: COUNCIL**

**Date: 24 February 2010**

**Agenda Item**  
**15**

**OFFICER REPORT - MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME 2010-2011**

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**1. PURPOSE**

To recommend to Council a Members' Allowances Scheme for 2010-2011.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

That a Members' Allowances Scheme be agreed for 2010-2011 as set out in Appendix A, attached.

**3. BACKGROUND**

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 recommended Scheme was adopted on 3rd October 2007 and subsequently approved for each year since. The Scheme recommended to Council for adoption for 2010/2011 is unchanged and includes provision for index linked increases to the Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances in line with the NJC national salary awards. It should be noted however that in 2009/2010 Members did not accept this percentage increase (1.00%).

4.2 Work was undertaken during 2009 to produce a guide to the Members' Allowances Scheme and other support and assistance provided to Members. This was circulated to Members in December and appears on the Council

website. The Council has also introduced an electronic recording system for Members' expenses and from 2010/2011 rather than only publishing payments made under the Allowances scheme just at the end of the financial year, they will now be published at the end of each quarter showing the total payments made at the end of June, September and December. Individual Members are able to request their own records at any time.

## **5. IMPLICATIONS**

### **5.1 Financial Implications**

The budget provision for the Members Allowances Scheme in 2009/2010, inclusive of travel and subsistence is £486,840. A draft budget provision of £490,990 has been included for 2010/2011.

### **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 2010-2011 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 2010-2011