

**Meeting:** COUNCIL

**Agenda Item:**

**14**

Portfolio Area: Members' Services

**Date:** 27 FEBRUARY 2013

## **OFFICER REPORT – MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME 2013-2014**

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### **1. PURPOSE**

To recommend to Council a Members' Allowances Scheme for 2013-2014.

### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 That a Members' Allowances Scheme be agreed for 2013-2014 as set out in Appendix A, attached.

2.2 That it be noted that a review of the Council's Scrutiny arrangements is to be undertaken early in the 2013/2014 Municipal Year, following which the Independent Panel be recalled to review the level of Special Responsibility Allowances paid to the Chairs of Development & Scrutiny Committees.

### **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.

3.2 At its meeting on 29 February 2012 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.

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

4.1 Council is being recommended to approve a Scheme for 2013/2014 based on the recommendations of that Panel as there has been no amendment to the political management structure of the Council upon which those recommendations were based.

4.2 At the time of the 2011/2012 review the Independent Panel, whilst recognising that it was not within its remit to review the Council's scrutiny arrangements, commented that with seven Committees the work was spread rather thinly across the Scrutiny Members. The Panel indicated that they would wish therefore to review the level of Special Responsibility Allowance paid to the Chairs of Development & Scrutiny Committees. To support that the Panel's deliberations officers are commissioning a review of the Scrutiny arrangements by the Centre for Public Scrutiny, the outcome of which will be fed into the Independent Remuneration Panel.

## **5. IMPLICATIONS**

### **5.1 Financial Implications**

The budget provision for the Members Allowances Scheme in 2013/2014, inclusive of travel and subsistence is ££486,510 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 2013-2014 is in accord with that recommended by the Panel.

## **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

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

## **APPENDICES**

- Appendix A - Recommended Scheme for 2013-2014