

**Meeting: COUNCIL**

**Agenda Item:**

Portfolio Area: Members' Services

**14**

**Date: 26 FEBRUARY 2014**

**OFFICER REPORT – MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME 2014-2015**

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**1. PURPOSE**

To recommend to Council a Members' Allowances Scheme for 2014-2015.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 That a Members' Allowances Scheme be agreed for 2014-2015 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 27 February 2013 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 9 October.

**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 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.

## **5. IMPLICATIONS**

### **5.1 Financial Implications**

The budget provision for the Members Allowances Scheme in 2014/2015, inclusive of travel and subsistence is £449,410 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 2014-2015 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 2014-2015