

**Meeting: STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

Agenda Item:

**Date: 15 July 2009**

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## **MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES AND PAYMENTS**

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### **1 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To report on a review of Members' Allowances, Payments and Support and Members' Guide to the Allowances Scheme and Other Assistance.

### **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 To note and approve the report and conclusion.
- 2.2 To adopt the guide to the Members' Allowances Scheme as set out in Appendix B

### **3 BACKGROUND AND DETAILS**

- 3.1 Following discussion last winter between the Chairman of the Standards Committee and the then Chief Executive the Strategic Director (Resources) was asked to carry out an informal audit of the payment of allowances to Members with particular reference to travel and subsistence claims.
- 3.2 The report of the Strategic Director (Resources) is attached - "Review of Members' Allowances Payments and Support" at Appendix A and he has also prepared a guide to the Members' Allowances Scheme and Other Assistance which is attached at Appendix B.

### **4 IMPLICATIONS**

#### **4.1 Financial Implications**

Contained in the report.

#### **4.2 Legal Implications**

Payments to Members are entirely covered by the Statutory Code recited in the appendices.

**4.2.1** The legislation also contains extensive requirements for the publication of the Members' Allowances Scheme and payments to Members and these are included in the Council's Publication Scheme made under the Freedom of Information Act. Although Mayoral and Deputy Mayoral allowances are not covered by this Statutory Allowances Scheme or the requirement for publicity, they are discloseable under the Freedom of Information Act.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- The report of the Independent Remuneration Panel on the Scheme of Councillors' Allowances for Stevenage Borough Council dated 3 October 2007.

## **APPENDICES**

- Appendix A - "Review of Members' Allowances Payments and Support"  
Author: Scott Crudgington - Strategic Director
- Appendix B - "A Guide to the Members' Allowances Scheme and Other Assistance"  
Author: Scott Crudgington - Strategic Director.