

**Meeting: COUNCIL**

Portfolio Area: Members' Services



**Date: 27 FEBRUARY 2019**

## **OFFICER REPORT – MEMBERS’ ALLOWANCES SCHEME 2019-2020**

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### **1. PURPOSE**

1.1 To recommend to Council a Members' Allowances Scheme for 2019-2020.

### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 That a Members' Allowances Scheme be agreed for 2019-2020, as set out in Appendix A to this report.

### **3. BACKGROUND**

3.1 Local authorities are required to make a Members' Allowances Scheme before the beginning of each financial year having considered the recommendations of an Independent Remuneration Panel.

3.2 At its meeting on 28 February 2018 the Council adopted a Members' Allowances Scheme for 2018–19 based on the recommendations of the Independent Panel that had undertaken a comprehensive review in Autumn 2015.

3.3 The Scheme recommended for 2019-20 is the same as that agreed by Council on 28 February 2018 with the allowances increased in accordance with the pay award applicable to NJC staff as in previous years.

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

- 4.1 Council is being recommended to approve a Scheme for 2019-20 based on the latest recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel as there has been no amendment to the political management structure of the Council upon which those recommendations were based.
- 4.2 The Scheme recommended includes provision for allowances to be index linked to officer (NJC) pay awards therefore any pay award agreed would be automatically applied. A 2% increase has been agreed for 2019-20.
- 4.3 It is intended that a new Independent Remuneration Panel will be appointed over the Summer of 2019, and will carry out its work in late 2019. The Panel will review the existing Scheme and submit its recommendations for a proposed Scheme for 2020/21 to Council in late 2019/early 2020.

#### **5. IMPLICATIONS**

##### **5.1 Financial Implications**

The budget provision for the Members Allowances Scheme in 2019/2020, inclusive of travel and subsistence is £494,940 which is sufficient to fund the proposed Scheme.

##### **5.2 Legal Implications**

The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 require that before making a Scheme the Council must have regard to the recommendations made by the Independent Remuneration Panel. The appended draft Scheme for 2019-20 is in accordance with that recommended by the Panel.

#### **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

- Report of Independent Panel – December 2015
- Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003

#### **APPENDICES**

- Appendix A - Recommended Scheme for 2019-2020