

## CABINET ITEM COVERING SHEET PROFORMA

**AGENDA ITEM**

**REPORT TO CABINET**

**30 NOVEMBER, 2006**

**REPORT OF  
CORPORATE  
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

### **COUNCIL DECISION**

#### **MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME 2007/08**

1. Summary

The purpose of this items is to recommend the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2007/08 to Council for approval.

2. Recommendation

It is recommended to Council that:

1. The Allowances Scheme for 2007/08, as set out at paragraph 5 of the report, be agreed;
2. Pursuant to paragraph 7 of the report, any further review of the Members Allowances Scheme be carried out during 2007/08; and
3. Subject thereto the additional resources required to fund the proposed Scheme, as indicated at paragraph 8 of the report, be built into the Members' allowances budgets for 2007/08

3. Reasons for the Recommendations

To finalise the position regarding the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2007/08.

4. Members' Interests

Members (including co-opted members with voting rights) should consider whether they have a personal interest in the item as defined in the Council's code of conduct (paragraph 8) and, if so, declare the existence and nature of that interest in accordance with paragraph 9 of the code.

Where a Member regards him/herself as having a personal interest in the item, he/she must then consider whether that interest is one which a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Member's judgement of the public interest (paragraph 10 of the code of conduct).

A Member with a prejudicial interest in any matter must withdraw from the room where the meeting is being held, whilst the matter is being considered; not exercise executive functions in relation to the matter and not seek improperly to influence the decision about the matter (paragraph 12 of the Code).

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**RECOMMENDATION**

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3. Subject thereto the additional resources required to fund the proposed Scheme, as indicated at paragraph 8 of the report, be built into the Members' allowances budgets for 2007/08

**DETAIL**

1. Following consideration of the Council's Members' Allowances by the Independent Remuneration Panel and a report to Cabinet on 9 March, 2006 the Council (at a special meeting on 22 March, 2006) agreed the Council's Members' Allowances Scheme for 2005/06 (revised) and for 2006/07.
2. The approved Scheme financial details for 2006/07 are as follows:-

<b>Allowance</b>	<b>Council Approved Levels (£)</b>
<b>Basic</b>	6,000
<b>Special Responsibility Allowances</b>	
Leader	14,175
Deputy Leader	8,250
Cabinet Members	7,100
Executive Scrutiny and Select Committee Chairs	4,000
Executive Scrutiny and Select Committee Vice Chairs	2,000
Chairs of:- Planning, Licensing, Standards, Audit	4,000
Vice Chairs of: - Planning, Licensing, Standards, Audit	2,000
Group Leaders:-	4,000

Conservative  
 Liberal Democrats  
 Ingleby Barwick Independents Society

**Co-optees Allowance**

500

**Child Care and Dependent Carers Allowance**

Up to 8.50 per hour  
 (actual expenditure) with a  
 maximum monthly  
 payment of £400  
 As per Officers'  
 rates

**Travel and Subsistence**

3. Council also agreed an index inflation rate of 2.5% for 2007/08 for the Basic Allowance, Special Responsibility Allowances and Co-optees Allowance, to be renewed annually thereafter.
4. In accordance with the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003, the Authority is each year required to agree its allowances scheme for the forthcoming year.
5. Based on the decision taken by Council on 22 March, 2006 and the inflation rate increases referred to in the preceding paragraph 3, the financial details of the Allowances Scheme for 2007/08 would be as follows:-

<b>Allowance</b>	<b>Proposed Council Approved Levels</b>
<b>Basic</b>	6,150
<b>Special Responsibility Allowances</b>	
Leader	14,529.38
Deputy Leader	8,456.25
Cabinet Members	7,277.50
Executive Scrutiny and Select Committee Chairs	4,100
Executive Scrutiny and Select Committee Vice Chairs	2,050
Chairs of:- Planning, Licensing, Standards, Audit	4,100
Vice Chairs of:- Planning, Licensing, Standards, Audit	2,050
Group Leaders:-	4,100
Conservative	
Liberal Democrats	
Ingleby Barwick Independents Society	
<b>Co-optees Allowance</b>	512.50
<b>Child care and Dependent Carers Allowance</b>	Up to 8.50 per hour (actual expenditure) with a maximum monthly payment of £400
<b>Travel and Subsistence</b>	As per Officers' rates

6. Provided neither Cabinet, nor Council wishes to change or add to the Allowances Scheme referred to in the previous paragraph, which is based on the last Independent Remuneration Panel report, it will be possible to agree and implement that scheme without the requirement for a further review by, and Report from the Panel.
7. Given that there will be elections in May 2007 it is recommended that subject to the outcome of the elections, any further review of the Allowances Scheme for 2007/08 be undertaken later on in the forthcoming Municipal year, together with any review which may be required for the purposes of agreeing the Allowances Scheme for 2008/09

## **FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

### **Financial**

8. The cost of the 2007/08 Scheme, if agreed, would be £12,568.13 greater than the current year's scheme.

### **Legal**

9. If the Allowances Scheme outlined at paragraph 5 of the report is agreed without any changes, it can be introduced without the need for a further Independent Remuneration Panel review. The Authority will therefore be complying with its legal obligations pursuant to this report.

## **RISK ASSESSMENT**

10. The issues within this report are categorised as low to medium risk.

## **COMMUNITY STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS**

11. Establishing the appropriate level of remuneration for Members' representational and advocacy roles in executive arrangements is an important element of the Government's modernisation agenda for local government, and the matters highlighted in the report are a specific requirement of the Members Allowances Regulations.

## **CONSULTATION**

13. Copies of this report will be made available for all Members. Consultation with all Members, in writing, was previously carried out on behalf of the Independent Panel in the context of the last review and the Panel also had one to one meetings with Group Leaders and the Deputy Leader.

### **Director of Law and Democracy**

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Background Papers: Report (and appendices) to Cabinet on 9 March, 2006

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors: Not Ward specific

Property Implications: None