

CABINET ITEM COVERING SHEET PROFORMA

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

31 OCTOBER 2013

**REPORT OF CORPORATE
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

COUNCIL DECISION

**Leader of the Council – Councillor Cook
Corporate Management and Finance - Lead Cabinet Member – Councillor Harrington**

MEMBERS' SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY ALLOWANCES ("SRA")

1. Summary

The purpose of this report is to give further consideration to Cabinet/Council's previous decision that no councillor should receive more than one SRA from the Council, with the exception of Mayoral Allowances; that where a councillor occupied two qualifying positions then only the higher allowance would be paid; but that this proposal relating to a councillor receiving no more than one SRA from the Council would however be the subject of further consultation.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended to Council that:-

1. No Councillor receives more than one SRA from the Council, with the exception of Mayoral Allowances, and that where a Councillor occupies two or more qualifying positions, then only the higher/highest allowance is paid; and that
2. This revision to the Members' Allowances Scheme takes effect from 2014/15

3. Reasons for the Recommendations

To conclude the consultation which Council agreed should be undertaken regarding the proposal that a Member should receive no more than one SRA from the Council.

4. Members' Interests

Members (including co-opted Members) should consider whether they have a personal interest in any item, as defined in **paragraphs 9 and 11** of the Council's code of conduct and, if so, declare the existence and nature of that interest in accordance with and/or taking account of **paragraphs 12 - 17** of the code.

Where a Member regards him/herself as having a personal interest, as described in **paragraph 16** of the code, in any business of the Council he/she must then, **in accordance with paragraph 18** of the code, 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 and the business:-

- affects the members financial position or the financial position of a person or body described in **paragraph 17** of the code, or
- relates to the determining of any approval, consent, licence, permission or registration in relation to the member or any person or body described in **paragraph 17** of the code.

A Member with a personal interest, as described in **paragraph 18** of the code, may attend the meeting but must not take part in the consideration and voting upon the relevant item of business. However, a member with such an interest may make representations, answer questions or give evidence relating to that business before the business is considered or voted on, provided the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose whether under a statutory right or otherwise (**paragraph 19** of the code)

Members may participate in any discussion and vote on a matter in which they have an interest, as described in **paragraph 18** of the code, where that interest relates to functions of the Council detailed in **paragraph 20** of the code.

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

It is a criminal offence for a member to participate in any discussion or vote on a matter in which he/she has a disclosable pecuniary interest (and where an appropriate dispensation has not been granted) **paragraph 21** of the code.

Members are required to comply with any procedural rule adopted by the Council which requires a member to leave the meeting room whilst the meeting is discussing a matter in which that member has a disclosable pecuniary interest (**paragraph 22** of the code)

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RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended to Council that:-

1. No Councillor receives more than one SRA from the Council, with the exception of Mayoral Allowances, and that where a Councillor occupies two or more qualifying positions, then only the higher/highest allowance is paid; and that
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DETAIL

1. A briefing paper regarding the proposal relating to a councillor receiving no more than one SRA from the Council is attached at the **Appendix** to this report.
2. The paper sets out the background to the proposal and the views previously expressed by the Council's Independent Remuneration Panel, Cabinet and Council.

Consultation

3. On the 26 April the briefing paper was circulated to all Members, who were asked to indicate their preference regarding one of the following options:-

Option 1

No change to the current position which allows Members to receive more than one SRA from the Council.

or

Option 2

A Member could only receive one SRA from the Council, **EXCLUDING** mayoral allowances, and where a member qualified for more than one SRA, then only the higher/highest allowance would be payable.

Option 3

A Member could only receive one SRA from the Council, **INCLUDING** mayoral allowances, and where a member qualified for more than one allowance, then only the higher/highest allowance (mayoral or SRA) would be payable.

4. Of the Members who voted, the following voted for each option:-

Option 1	2
Option 2	12
Option 3	13

5. This information was presented to the Members Advisory Panel on the 25th September 2013. The Panel discussed the options and agreed that a member should only receive one SRA from the Council and that where a Member qualified for more than one SRA then only the higher/highest allowance should be payable. The Panel did, not, however determine which of Options 2 or 3 was preferred.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial

6. It cannot be determined for certain whether savings will be made in the future should the proposal be agreed.

Legal

7. Depending on any recommendations which Cabinet wishes to make regarding the proposal, it may be possible simply to refer them to Council for agreement without the need for a subsequent referral to the Independent Remuneration Panel.

RISK ASSESSMENT

8. The issues referred to in this report are considered to be low risk.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS

9. Remuneration for Members is an important part of the democratic engagement agenda.

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

10. An impact assessment is not considered to be necessary.

CONSULTATION

11. All Members have been consulted about the matter as detailed in the report.

Director of Law & Democracy

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Background Papers: None
Ward(s) and Ward Councillors: Not ward specific
Property Implications: None