

AGENDA ITEM
REPORT TO COUNCIL
18 JANUARY 2012
REPORT OF
CORPORATE
MANAGEMENT TEAM

MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

SUMMARY

This report will be considered by Cabinet at its meeting to be held on 12 January 2012. The relevant minute coming from Cabinet's consideration of the report will be forwarded to Members ahead of Council.

The purpose of this report is to provide details of the review of Members' Allowances by the Independent Remuneration Panel ("the Panel") and to seek Council's agreement to any changes to the current year's scheme (2011/12) and agreement to the Allowances Scheme for 2012/13.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Panel be thanked formally for their work; and
2. The Panel's report be considered.

DETAIL

1. A new Panel was established with Council's approval on 7 September 2011 (CAB 37/11) and the Panel was asked to review Members' Allowances, with a view to making any recommendations for 2011/12 and for 2012/13.
2. The Panel concluded its review in December 2011. A copy of the Panel's report is attached at **Appendix 1** to this item.
3. The Panel's recommendations are set out at paragraph 5 on page 10.
4. Cabinet considered the Panel's report and recommendations at its meeting on 12 January, 2012. .

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5. The financial implications of the Panel's recommendations for 2011/12 and for 2012/13 are set out at paragraph 4 of the Panel's report, on page 9 (**Appendix 1**).

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6. The review by the Panel, Cabinet and Council's consideration of the Panel's report, and decisions regarding the Authority's allowances schemes, taking account of the Panel review are all statutory requirements. The Authority is therefore complying with its legal obligations pursuant to this report.

RISK ASSESSMENT

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

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS

8. Establishing the appropriate level of remuneration for Members' representational and advocacy roles in executive arrangements is an important element of the modernisation agenda for local government. Independent Remuneration Panels are integral to that process and the matters highlighted in the report are key features of the Members' Allowances Regulations and related guidance.

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

9. An equality impact assessment is not considered to be necessary.

CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS

10. Copies of the Panel's report were made available to all Members. Consultation with all Members, in writing, was carried out on behalf of the Panel and the Panel also had one to one meetings with a number of Members, including Group Leaders.

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Background Papers The Panel Report
Ward(s) and Ward Councillors: Not Ward Specific
Property None