

AGENDA ITEM
REPORT TO COUNCIL
6 NOVEMBER 2013
REPORT OF CORPORATE
MANAGEMENT TEAM

MEMBERS' SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY ALLOWANCES ("SRA")

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.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended to Council that Cabinet's views on the proposals relating to a Councillor receiving no more than one SRA from the Council are considered.

DETAIL

1. A briefing paper regarding the proposal relating to a councillor receiving no more than one SRA from the Council is attached at **Appendix 1** 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.

6. Cabinet considered the matter at its meeting on 31st October 2013. The relevant Cabinet decision record is attached as an Appendix to the report (To Follow).

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial

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

Legal

8. Depending on the decision which Council wishes to make regarding the proposal, it may be possible simply to agree to implement a change to the allowances scheme without the need for prior referral to the Independent Remuneration Panel.

RISK ASSESSMENT

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

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS

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

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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

CONSULTATION

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

Director of Law & Democracy

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<u>Background Papers:</u>	None
<u>Ward(s) and Ward Councillors:</u>	Not ward specific
<u>Property Implications:</u>	None