

AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

26 March 2015

Report of the Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer

REVIEW OF MEMBER'S ALLOWANCES

Purpose

To inform members of the Audit and Governance Committee of the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel and the recommendations adopted by Council on 17 March 2015 in relation thereto.

Recommendation

That Audit and Governance Committee endorse the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel and the recommendations adopted by Council on 17 March 2015.

Background Information

Regulations came into force in May 2003 which requires the Council to review and adopt a scheme of allowances for members.

All Councils are required to convene an Allowances Panel and seek its advice before they make any changes or amendments to their allowance scheme and they must "pay regard" to the Panel's recommendations before setting a new or amended Members Allowances Scheme.

At the Council Meeting on 15 December 2009 it was agreed that future reports of the Independent Remuneration Panel would be presented to the Audit and Governance Committee. The report is attached at Appendix 1.

The Members Remuneration Panel was convened on 22 December 2014. It is a statutory requirement that a summary of the remuneration panel recommendations are published in a local newspaper. The recommendations will be published in the next edition of the Tamworth Herald.

The Council at its meeting on 17 March 2015 considered the report and determined a revised Scheme of Members Allowances, which will have effect from the start of the 2015/16 municipal year on 11 May 2015. The Council resolved to accept the recommendations of the panel which will reconvene in four years given that the allowances rely on indexation.

The Council determined a Basic Allowance per annum of £5,171 with 10% discount applied then repaid for all members who achieve 75% attendance at all of their scheduled meetings.

The Council determined an allowance of £45 per meeting under four hours duration and £90 for each meeting over four hours duration for Chairs of Licensing Sub-Committees and Co-optees.

For Members with special responsibilities the following Special Responsibility Allowances (SRA) per annum were determined as follows:

SRA Payable with 10% Discount applied then repaid when
75% attendance achieved in Municipal Year

	SRA £
SRA's Payable Leader (1)	12,942
Deputy Leader (1)	9,706
Other Cabinet Member (3)	8,412
Chair of Scrutiny (2)	5,823
Chair Planning	5,823
Chair Licensing	1,294
Chair Audit & Governance	3,235
Leader of Larger Opposition Group	5,823
Deputy Leader of Larger Opposition Group	3,235
Leader Minor Opposition Group	1,294

The Council determined removal of access to the Local Government Pension Scheme for members.

The Mileage Allowance for attending approved duties within the Borough is discontinued. For journeys taken by members outside the Borough the current rates of pay for travel and subsistence allowances and the approved duties to which they may be claimed are maintained.

That the following indices are applied to the remuneration and allowances:- Basic allowance, SRA AND Co-optees allowance indexed to the annual percentage pay rise for local government staff implemented from 1 April of the following year to which it applies to staff; Dependents Carer Allowance indexed to the hourly minimum wage applicable to the age of the carer; mileage allowance be indexed to the HMRC mileage rates and subsistence rates for Members be paid at the same rates as that of Officers.

Appendices

Appendix 1

A Review of Member's Allowances for Tamworth Borough Council; The Sixth Report by the Independent Remuneration Panel.

Appendix 2

Report to Council dated 17 March 2015

Appendix 3

Costing of recommended changes to Members Allowances Scheme for
2015/16

*"If Members would like further information or clarification prior to the meeting
please contact Jane M Hackett Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer on Ext.258"*

This page is intentionally left blank