

# REPORT

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
RESOURCES DIRECTORATE	COUNCIL	26 JANUARY 2015	9

## MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

### PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting

### SUMMARY

The independent remuneration panel has agreed on recommendations for councillors' allowances for the financial year 2015-16. The recommendations are detailed below. The report asks members to consider the recommendations and adopt them if appropriate.

### RECOMMENDATION

Adopt the following recommendations of the independent remuneration panel with effect from 1 April 2015:

1. *Maintain the present level of basic allowance (£3,500) for 2015 – 16.*
2. *To continue to pay travel and subsistence allowances, with an increase to the members' mileage rate to 45p per mile*
3. *To place a time limit of three months on claims, i.e. claims must be made within 3 months of the meeting or travel occurring. Any claims made after 3 months would not be paid.*
4. *To recognise the change in governance with the following changes to the Members special responsibility allowance:-*
  - *Leader of the Council - £6,000*
  - *Deputy Leader of the Council - £3,000*
  - *Chairmen of the Development Management, Finance and Democracy, Operational Management, Environment Health and Housing, Tourism and Leisure, Audit and Standards Committees - £3250.00.*
  - *Vice-Chairmen of the above Committees - 50% of Chairmen's allowance -£1,625.00.*
  - *Chairmen of the Public Protection and Licensing Committees - £1,625.00.*
  - *Vice-Chairmen of the above Committees - 50% of Chairmen's allowance -£812.50.*
  - *Leader of each political group - £32 per group member.*
5. *To continue to the payment of £250 per annum to the three Independent persons, who work*

## Appendix 1

*with the Standards and Audit Committee and the Monitoring Officer*

6. *To continue to pay dependents' carers' allowance at the current rate*

### CABINET PORTFOLIO

This item falls within cabinet portfolio:

Finance and Resources - Councillor Karen Buckley

### CORPORATE PRIORITIES

To Promote the Enhancement of The Natural & Built Environment ( <b>Place</b> )		To Encourage Cohesive Communities ( <b>People</b> )	
To Promote a Thriving Economy ( <b>Prosperity</b> )		To Meet Expectations of our Customers ( <b>Performance</b> )	✓

### SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

Council considers recommendations from the independent remuneration panel each year. Last municipal year the recommendations were reported to the council on 2 December 2013. The recommendation was to maintain the existing level of basic allowance. Council accepted the recommendation.

### REPORT

1. The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 provide for local authorities to establish and maintain an independent remuneration panel. The purpose of the panel is to make recommendations to the council about the allowances to be paid to elected members.
2. The council must have regard to the recommendations of the panel.
3. Local authorities must include in their scheme of allowances a basic allowance, payable to all members, and may include provision for the payment of special responsibility allowances and a dependants' carers' allowance. The Regulations allow the inclusion of a travel and subsistence and a co-optees' allowance within an allowances scheme. These allowances are discretionary.
4. The independent panel has met and has made recommendations concerning the council's scheme, with particular regard to change in the Council's governance arrangements in May 2015.
5. The independent panel has made recommendations in regards to special responsibility allowances, whilst being mindful of the Council's budget.
6. Members are asked to consider the three appendices to this report:
  - Appendix 1: The report to the independent panel;
  - Appendix 2: A note of the panel's deliberations and recommendations; and
  - Appendix 3: The allowances scheme, as it would appear following the implementation of the panel's recommendations.

## Appendix 1

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	The provision for the cost of Members' Allowances within the approved revenue budget for 2014/15 is in the sum of £240,138. There is no assumed increase to this budget in respect of future years. Any increases in allowance levels would therefore result in increased revenue costs in future years which would require approval by Council in due course.
Legal	Payment of members' allowances and the amount of such allowances is discretionary. However, the council is obliged to "have regard" to the recommendations of the independent panel.
Community Safety	None
Human Rights and Equalities	None
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	None
Health & Safety and Risk Management	None

LEAD AUTHOR	TEL	DATE	DOC ID
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LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Report to remuneration panel	19 November 2014	Town Hall, Lytham St Annes
Notes of remuneration panel meeting	19 November 2014	Town Hall, Lytham St Annes

Attached documents

Appendix 1: The report to the independent panel;

Appendix 2: A note of the panel's deliberations and recommendations

Appendix 3: The allowances scheme, as it would appear following the implementation of the panel's recommendations.