

# DECISION ITEM



REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
RESOURCES DIRECTORATE	COUNCIL	5 DECEMBER 2016	10
<b>MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES</b>			

## PUBLIC ITEM

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

## SUMMARY

The Independent Remuneration Panel has agreed a recommendation for councillors' allowances for the financial year 2017-18. The recommendation is detailed below. The report asks members to consider the recommendation and adopt if appropriate.

## RECOMMENDATION

To consider adopting the following recommendation of the Independent Remuneration Panel with effect from 1 April 2017:

1. Maintain the present level of basic allowance, special responsibility allowances, travel and subsistence allowances and dependent carer's' allowance for 2017 – 18; and
2. Excepting for the proposed change to the allowance for independent persons allowance which is an overall increase in total costs of £350 per annum, per Independent Person with effect from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017.

## SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

Council considers recommendations from the Independent Remuneration Panel each year. Last municipal year, the recommendations were reported to the council 14 December 2015. The decision of the council at that meeting was to maintain the present level of allowances.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES	
Spending your money in the most efficient way to achieve excellent services ( <b>Value for Money</b> )	√
Delivering the services that customers expect of an excellent council ( <b>Clean and Green</b> )	√
Working with all partners ( <b>Vibrant Economy</b> )	√
To make sure Fylde continues to be one of the most desirable places to live ( <b>A Great Place to Live</b> )	√
Promoting Fylde as a great destination to visit ( <b>A Great Place to Visit</b> )	√

## 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.
5. The Panel was also asked to consider whether special responsibility allowances for members of the Development Management Committee ought to be introduced in view of the unusual length and frequency of meetings of that committee. (An overview of the current arrangements was set out in the report to the panel).
6. The Panel concluded that the payment of a Special Responsibility Allowance to members of the Development Management Committee could not be supported, because the committee did not meet the statutory criterion of meeting with exceptional frequency or for exceptionally long periods.
7. The Panel being mindful of the Council's budget, recommended that there be no change in the current level of allowances and that special responsibility allowances for members of the Development Management Committee should not be introduced.
8. Separate to the above, an additional meeting of the Independent Remuneration Panel was held in September, (jointly with the Blackpool Independent Remuneration Panel) to review the honoraria payments to Independent Persons. This is subject to a further report elsewhere on this agenda. It is worthy of note that it was proposed to increase the honoraria payment per Independent Person from £250pa to £350pa, this being Fylde's contribution.
9. Members are asked to consider the two documents below:
  - 1: [The report to the independent panel](#); and
  - 2: [A note of the panel's deliberations and recommendations](#).

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	The Council's base revenue budget includes recurring provision of £254,534 per annum for the Member's Allowance Scheme. The proposed increase in the level of the independent persons allowance as set out elsewhere on this agenda would result in increased revenue costs of £350, per Independent Person, per annum, which would be contained within existing approved revenue budgets.
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
Ian Curtis	01253 68506	22 November 2016	

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Report to remuneration panel	November 2016	<a href="#">Town Hall, Lytham St Annes</a>
Notes of remuneration panel meeting	November 2016	<a href="#">Town Hall, Lytham St Annes</a>