

DECISION ITEM



REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
RESOURCES DIRECTORATE	COUNCIL	14 DECEMBER 2015	18

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 2016-17. 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 2016:

1. *Maintain the present level of basic allowance, special responsibility allowances, travel and subsistence allowances and dependent carer's' allowance for 2016 – 17.*
2. *Make the following changes to the table of approved duties: Add the words "or event" after "meeting", where it occurs in the preamble wording to the table and the table header and change the final row of the table to the following:*

Any other meeting or event at which the attendance of a member is invited or sanctioned by an officer	Member whose attendance is invited or sanctioned
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CORPORATE PRIORITIES

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

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 26 January 2015 and allowances were considered again at the meeting of 7 June. The decision of the council at that meeting was to increase allowances to their present level.

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 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 independent panel, being mindful of the Council's budget and the fact that the present level of allowances was only set a few months ago, recommended that there be no change in the current level of allowances.
6. The panel did recommend one change to the existing scheme, which was to change the table of approved duties as set out below (new wording underlined):

Attendance at any of the following meetings or events in column 1 is specified as an approved duty for the purpose of the payment of travelling and subsistence allowances and dependents' carers' allowances for the persons specified in column 2

Meeting	Persons qualified for allowance
Council	Councillor
Committee	Member of that committee
Sub-committee	Member of that sub-committee
Joint committee	Member of that committee appointed or nominated by Fylde Borough Council
Committee chairman's briefing	Chairman and vice-chairman
Tender opening	One Chairman
Site visit	Member of the committee or sub-committee under whose auspices the visit has been arranged
Course, seminar or conference	Member authorised to attend by the Member Development Steering Group or the Chief Executive
Any other external organisation	Member appointed or nominated to the organisation, or nominated to attend its meetings, by the council
Any other meeting <u>or event at which the attendance of a member is invited or sanctioned</u> arranged by an officer of the council	Member <u>whose attendance is invited or sanctioned</u>

The change is intended to allow more flexibility to pay travelling allowances for attendance at events which properly form part of a member's duties, but which may fall outside the literal wording of the present scheme.

7. Members are asked to consider the two appendices to this report:

Appendix 1: The report to the independent panel; and

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

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	The Council's base revenue budget includes recurring provision of £254,243 per annum for member's allowances as set out in paragraph 9 of this report. Any increases in allowances will result in increased revenue costs which will 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	September 2015	Town Hall, Lytham St Annes
Notes of remuneration panel meeting	13 November 2015	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