

DECISION ITEM



REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
RESOURCES DIRECTORATE	COUNCIL	6 JULY 2015	10

MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

PUBLIC ITEM

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

SUMMARY

The council meeting of 26 January considered a report on members' allowances, incorporating the recommendations of the council's independent remuneration panel. The council decided to implement those recommendations on an interim basis pending further consideration at tonight's meeting.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Reconsider the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel and make any changes to the scheme of members' allowances as members see fit, having regard to the recommendations of the panel.

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, 26 January 2015: Resolved to adopt the recommendations of the independent remuneration panel, with effect from 20 May 2015, with the scheme to be revisited at the first meeting of the council after the 2015 AGM.

REPORT

1. The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 empowers local authorities to adopt a scheme setting out allowances to be paid to elected members. A scheme must include 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 also allow the inclusion of a travel and subsistence and a co-optees' allowance within an allowances scheme. These allowances are discretionary.

2. When a local authority makes or amends a scheme of allowances, it must have regard to the recommendations made by its independent remuneration panel.
3. The council considered the recommendations of its independent remuneration panel at its meeting on January 26 this year. The council resolved to *“adopt the recommendations of the independent remuneration panel, with effect from 20 May 2015, with the scheme to be revisited at the first meeting of the council after the 2015 AGM”*. The scheme presently in operation is therefore the one recommended by the panel, attached as appendix 4.
4. The council is therefore asked to revisit the scheme, as mandated by the resolution set out above, and having regard to the recommendations of the independent remuneration panel. Attached for members' reference are the report to the January 26 meeting and the appendices originally attached to that report.

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	The provision for the cost of Members' Allowances within the approved revenue budget for 2015/16 is in the sum of £240,138. Any increases in allowance levels would therefore result in increased revenue costs.
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 council meeting of January 26 2015

Appendix 2: The report to the independent panel;

Appendix 3: A note of the panel's deliberations and recommendations

Appendix 4: The allowances scheme, as it presently appears following the implementation of the panel's recommendations from May 20.