

Council

Members' Allowances 2013/2014

25 February 2013

Report of Head of Law and Governance

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To determine the levels of the allowances to be paid to Members for the forthcoming 2013/2014 financial year following the submission of the report of the Council's Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP).

This report is public

Recommendations

That Council is recommended to:

- (1) Consider the levels of allowances to be included in the 2013/14 Members' Allowances Scheme, and whether the Panel's recommendations should be adopted or modified in any way.
- (2) Authorise the Head of Law and Governance to prepare an amended Members' Allowances Scheme, in accordance with the decisions of the Council for implementation with effect from 1 April 2013.
- (3) Authorise the Head of Law and Governance to take all necessary action to revoke the current (2012/13) Scheme and to publicise the revised Scheme pursuant to The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 (as amended).
- (4) Thank the Independent Remuneration Panel for its report and set a fee of £300 for Panel Members for the work carried out in 2012/13 and propose the same level of fee for 2013/14.

Executive Summary

Introduction

- 1.1 The Council's Independent Remuneration Panel has met to review the current (2012/13) Members' Allowances Scheme and its report on the recommended levels of the allowance payments for the 2013/14 financial year is attached as appendix 1.
- 1.2 The Council is required to have regard to the Panel's recommendations, but is under no obligation to accept them if they are deemed to be inappropriate. It is open to the Council to revise the levels of the recommended allowance payments for 2013/14 (either up or down) as is considered appropriate.

Proposals

- 1.3 It is proposed that:
 - (a) there be no increase in the Basic Allowance;
 - (b) there be no increase in Special Responsibility Allowances;
 - (c) there be no increase in the Dependent Carers' Allowance;
 - (d) there be no increase in Travelling and Subsistence Allowances;
 - (e) the Chairman of the new Standards Committee should be granted the same allowance as the Chairman of the Licensing Committee (i.e. £1,104.00 per annum) as they were equivalent in terms of responsibility and workload.

Conclusion

- 1.4 It is the view of the IRP that the proposals represent realistic and fair levels of allowance for 2013/14 and recommend adoption.

Key Issues for Consideration/Reasons for Decision and Options

The following options have been identified. The approach in the recommendations is believed to be the best way forward.

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|-------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Option One | To accept the Panel's recommendations |
| Option Two | To modify the Panel's recommendations |
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Consultations

All Members of Cherwell District Council

Comments have been considered by the Panel

Implications

Financial:

Provision has been included in the draft 2013/2014 budget for Members' Allowances. There are principally two options available in terms of setting the levels of the allowances for the forthcoming financial year as follows:-

- (1) to adopt the recommendations of the IRP. The full year cost can be accommodated within the draft budget as mentioned above; or
- (2) to alter the levels of the allowances over and above those recommended by the IRP, although this would increase the provision included in the draft budget.

Comments checked by Leanne Lock, Technical and Project Accountant - 01295 227098

Legal:

It is a legal requirement of the Council to consider the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel before setting the level of allowances.

Comments checked by Kevin Lane, Head of Law and Governance - 0300 0030107

Risk Management:

There are no risks associated with the report other than the possibility of exceeding budget provision.

Comments checked by James Doble, Democratic and Elections Manager - 01295 221587

Wards Affected

All

Document Information

Appendix No	Title
Appendix 1	Report of Independent Remuneration Panel
Background Papers	
None	
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