

Cherwell District Council

Council

24 February 2014

Members Allowances 2014/2015

Report of Head of Law and Governance

This report is public

Purpose of report

To determine the levels of the allowances to be paid to Members for the forthcoming 2014/2015 financial year following the submission of the report of the Council's Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP)

1.0 Recommendations

The meeting is recommended:

- 1.1 To consider the levels of allowances to be included in the 2014/2015 Members' Allowances Scheme, and whether the Panel's recommendations should be adopted or modified in any way
- 1.2 To 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 2014.
- 1.3 To authorise the Head of Law and Governance to take all necessary action to revoke the current (2013/2014) Scheme and to publicise the revised Scheme pursuant to The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances)(England) Regulations 2003 (as amended).
- 1.4 To thank the Independent Remuneration Panel for its report and set a fee of £300 for Panel Members for the work carried out in 2013/2014 and propose the same level of fee for 2014/2015.

2.0 Introduction

- 2.1 The Council's Independent Remuneration Panel has met to review the current (2013/2014) Members' Allowances Scheme and its report on the recommended levels of the allowance payments for the 2014/2015 financial year is attached as appendix 1.

- 2.2 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 the 2014/2015 (either up or down) as is considered appropriate.

3.0 Report Details

- 3.1 The Independent Remuneration Panel proposed that:

- (a) That the basic allowance be rounded to 12 equal payments of £346 per month.

	2013/14	2014/15
Basic Allowance	£4,155.00 p.a.	£4,152.00 p.a.

- (b) The levels of Special Responsibility Allowances be reconfigured to reflect the work and time involved and allowing an increased payment for the Deputy Leader of the Council whose duties and responsibilities outweigh its current recompense.
- (c) Alterations should be made to the payment for Appeals Panel which has no definite frequency of assembly. The Panel suggests an allowance of £250 per meeting to be capped at £1000 per annum.
- (d) That all allowances should be rounded to ensure 12 equal payments.
- (e) That there be a slight reduction in allowance to the Accounts, Audit and Risk, Personnel, Licensing and Standards Committees because of reductions in workload or frequency of meetings.
- (f) That there be a slight reduction in allowance to the Overview and Scrutiny and Budget Planning Committees because of the streamlining of their workload.
- (g) That the following rates should apply for the financial year 2014/2015

	2013/14	2014/15
Leader of the Council	£7,209.00 p.a.	£7,212.00 p.a.
Executive Members Holding a Portfolio	£6,291.00 p.a.	£6,300.00 p.a.
Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee	£3,702.00 p.a.	£3,504.00 p.a.
Chairman of Budget Planning Committee	£3,702.00 p.a.	£3,504.00 p.a.

Chairman of the Planning Committee	£4,200.00 p.a.	£4,200.00 p.a.
Chairman of the Accounts, Audit and Risk Committee	£2,250.00 p.a.	£1,800.00 p.a.
Chairman of the Personnel Committee	£1,104.00 p.a.	£1,008.00 p.a.
Chairman of the Licensing Committee	£1,104.00 p.a.	£1,008.00 p.a.
Chairman of the Standards Committee	£1,104.00 p.a.	£1,008.00 p.a.
Chairman of the Appeals Panel	£1,104.00 p.a.	£250 per meeting to a capped limit of £1000 pa
Leader of the Opposition	£2,898.00 p.a.	£2,904.00 p.a.
Deputy Leader of the Council	£1,104.00 p.a.	£2, 484.00 p.a.

(a) there be no increase in the Dependent Carers' Allowance:

Childcare	£8 per hour
Dependent Relative Care	£15 per hour

(b) that there be: no increase in Travelling and Subsistence Allowances; withdrawal of the Tea Allowance; and an alternative procedure for booking overnight accommodation.

Bicycles	20p per mile
Motorcycles	24p per mile
Motor Vehicles	45p per mile
Electric or Similar Specialised Vehicles	£1.10 per journey

Breakfast Allowance	£6.02 per meal
Lunch Allowance	£8.31 per meal

Evening Meal Allowance	£10.29 per meal
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4.0 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

4.1 It is the view of the IRP that the proposals represent realistic and fair levels of allowance for 2014/2015 and recommend adoption.

5.0 Consultation

Details set out in appendix 1, Panels Report.

6.0 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

5.1 The following alternative options have been identified and rejected for the reasons as set out below.

Option 1: To accept the Panel's recommendations

Option 2: To modify the Panel's recommendations

7.0 Implications

Financial and Resource Implications

Provision has been included in the draft 2014/2015 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 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: Kelly Wheeler M.A.A.T, Interim Service Accountant for Resources. 01327 322230

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Legal Implications

7.2 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:

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Wards Affected

All

Links to Corporate Plan and Policy Framework

Value for Money Cherwell

Lead Councillor

None

Document Information

Appendix No	Title
1	Report of the Independent and Parish Remuneration Panel on the Review of Members' Allowances for the 2014/2015 Financial Year
Background Papers	
None	
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