

# **Cherwell District Council**

## **Council**

**23 February 2015**

<b>Members Allowances 2015/2016</b>
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### **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 2015/2016 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 Consider the levels of allowances to be included in the 2015/2016 Members' Allowances Scheme, and whether the Panel's recommendations should be adopted or modified in any way
- 1.2 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 2015.
- 1.3 Authorise the Head of Law and Governance to take all necessary action to revoke the current (2014/2015) Scheme and to publicise the revised Scheme pursuant to The Local Authorities (Members's Allowances)(England) Regulations 2003 (as amended).
- 1.4 Thank the Independent Remuneration Panel for its report and set a fee of £300 for Panel Members for the work carried out in 2014/2015 and propose the same level of fee for 2015/2016.

#### **2.0 Introduction**

- 2.1 The Council's Independent Remuneration Panel has met to review the current (2014/2015) Members' Allowances Scheme and its report on the recommended levels of the allowance payments for the 2015/2016 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 2015/2016 (either up or down) as is considered appropriate.

### 3.0 Report Details

3.1 Based on the information provided to the Panel, it recommends that:

- (a) That the basic allowance remains the same.

	2014/15	2015/16
Basic Allowance	£4,152.00 p.a.	£4,152.00 p.a.

- (b) Alterations should be made to the payment to the Chairman of the Standards Committee which has no definite frequency of assembly. The Panel suggested a special responsibility allowance of £250 per annum plus £250 per meeting to be capped at £1000 per annum in total.
- (c) Alterations should be made to the payment to the Chairman of the Licensing Committee which has no definite frequency of assembly. The Panel suggested a special responsibility allowance of £250 per annum plus £250 per meeting of the full committee (i.e. not sub-committees) to be capped at £1000 per annum in total.
- (d) That the following rates should apply for the financial year 2015/16.

	2014/15	2015/16
Leader of the Council	£7,212.00 p.a.	£7,212.00 p.a.
Executive Members Holding a Portfolio	£6,300.00 p.a.	£6,300.00 p.a.
Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee	£3,504.00 p.a.	£3,504.00 p.a.
Chairman of Budget Planning Committee	£3,504.00 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	£1,800.00 p.a.	£1,800.00 p.a.

Chairman of the Personnel Committee	£1,008.00 p.a.	£1,008.00 p.a.
Chairman of the Licensing Committee	£1,008.00 p.a.	£250 SRA plus £250 per full meeting to a capped limit of £1000pa
Chairman of the Standards Committee	£1,008.00 p.a.	£250 SRA plus £250 per meeting to a capped limit of £1000pa
Chairman of the Appeals Panel	£250 per meeting to a capped limit of £1000 pa	£250 per meeting to a capped limit of £1000 pa
Leader of the Opposition	£2,904.00 p.a.	£2,904.00 p.a.
Deputy Leader of the Council	£2,484.00 p.a.	£2, 484.00 p.a.

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

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

(f) there be: no increase in Travelling and Subsistence Allowances;.

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

(g) Democratic Services should continue to book overnight accommodation

## **4.0 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations**

- 4.1 It is the view of the Independent Remuneration Panel that the proposals represent realistic and fair levels of allowance for 2015/2016 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 2015/2016 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: Martin Henry, Director of Resources & 151 Officer, [martin.henry@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:martin.henry@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk) , telephone 0300 003 0102

## 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: Kevin Lane, Head of Law and Governance, kevin.lane@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk, Telephone: 0300 003 0107

## 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 2015/2016 Financial Year
<b>Background Papers</b>	
None	
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