

Report of the City Solicitor

Report to Council

Date: 29th June 2016

Subject: Members Allowances

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| Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| Is the decision eligible for Call-In? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number: | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |

Purpose of this report

- 1.1 This report advises Council of the receipt of a report from the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) on the 26th May 2016, and asks Council to consider the recommendations of the IRP in relation to the Members' Allowances Scheme.

2 Background information

- 2.1 Council is required to determine a Members' Allowances Scheme, having regard to recommendations from an Independent Remuneration Panel.
- 2.2 In determining or varying its Members' Allowances Scheme, Council may modify, accept or reject any such recommendations from the Independent Remuneration Panel as it considers appropriate.

3 Main issues

- 3.1 Full Council is advised that the Independent Remuneration Panel has issued a report to the Council, a copy of which is attached, which recommends amendments to the existing Members' Allowances Scheme.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

4.1.1 Groups were consulted prior to the IRP's consideration of amendments to the Allowances Scheme. Group Leaders have been provided with a copy of the IRP's report and recommendations and in response the Conservative Group Leader has commented that he would like to "make it clear to the Independent Remuneration Panel that my group are not in favour of any steps being taken which will result in increasing member allowances over and above the annual updating. We would not be in favour of what you refer to as a minor adjustment of the 'ring fenced' budget."

4.1.2 Those comments have been provided to the Chair of the Independent Panel who, having reflected on the comments made, is of the view that the recommendations for change being made by the Independent Panel to the 'ring fenced budget' are de minimis.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

4.2.1 No specific considerations

4.3 Council policies and City Priorities

4.3.1 No specific considerations

4.4 Resources and value for money

4.4.1 No specific considerations.

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

4.5.1 Regulations prescribe that, prior to considering amending the Members' Allowances Scheme; the authority must have regard to the recommendations by an Independent Remuneration Panel.

4.6 Risk Management

4.6.1 No specific considerations

5 Conclusions

5.1 The Independent Remuneration Panel has made a number of recommendations for changes to the Members' Allowance Scheme which are for full Council to agree to or reject.

6 Recommendations

6.1 Council is asked to consider and agree the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel as detailed in the attached report.

6.2 Council is asked to authorise the City Solicitor to make any consequential changes to the Members' Allowances Scheme arising from the recommendations made.

7 Background documents¹

7.1 None

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available for inspection on request for a period of four years following the date of the relevant meeting. Accordingly this list does not include documents containing exempt or confidential information, or any published works. Requests to inspect any background documents should be submitted to the report author.