

DECISION-MAKER:	STANDARDS AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE COUNCIL
SUBJECT:	MEMBERS' ALLOWANCE SCHEME
DATE OF DECISION:	8 th September 2011 14 th September 2011
REPORT OF:	Acting Head of Legal and Democratic Services
STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY	
N/A	

BRIEF SUMMARY

Under the Local Government (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003, local authorities are required to have Independent Remuneration Panels for the purpose of reviewing their schemes of Members' Allowances. Southampton City Council is required to review its scheme by September 2011 at the latest and have regard to the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

STANDARDS AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

- (i) To consider and comment on the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel as set out on in the Panel's report (attached as appendix 1).

COUNCIL

- (i) To consider the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel as set out in the Panel's report (attached as Appendix 1)
- (ii) To make any amendment to the Council's Constitution accordingly
- (iii) To thank the members of the Independent Remuneration Panel for their work in reviewing the Members' Allowance Scheme.

REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Under the Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003, Southampton City Council is required to have an Independent Remuneration Panel review the Members' Allowance Scheme within 4 years of the date that the scheme was approved.
2. Council approved the Members' Allowance Scheme on 19th September 2007 and has subsequently made amendments to the scheme as necessary. The Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances have not been reviewed since the scheme was approved in 2007.
3. Council has a duty to have regard to the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel when making or amending the scheme of allowances.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

4. Council is required to approve a Members' Allowance Scheme at this meeting in order to comply with The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003. The options are:-
- (i) to approve the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel
 - (ii) to amend the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel
 - (iii) to reject the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel and consider alternative proposals.

DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)

5. The attached report of the Independent Remuneration Panel details the reasons and rationale for the recommendations made by the Panel.
6. The Council is required by law to consult with the Independent Remuneration Panel, established for the purpose of considering the Members' Allowances, prior to making any decision to amend, revoke or replace the existing scheme of allowances. The recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel are set out in Appendix 1.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Capital/Revenue

7. If all the recommendations contained in this report are implemented, this can be achieved within existing budgets contained within the Leaders Portfolio. The recommendations are based on a commencement date of 1st October 2011 and the full-year effect of the changes from 2012/13 will be a saving of up to £80k. However this figure will vary if the recommendations are only accepted and implemented in part.

Property/Other

8. N/A

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

9. Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) 2003.

Other Legal Implications:

10. N/A

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

11. None

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KEY DECISION? No

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	None
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SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Non-confidential appendices are in the Members' Rooms and can be accessed on-line

Appendices

1.	Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel
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Documents In Members' Rooms

1.	None
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Integrated Impact Assessment

Do the implications/subject of the report require an Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) to be carried out.	No
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Other Background Documents

Integrated Impact Assessment and Other Background documents available for inspection at:

Title of Background Paper(s)	Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)
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1.	None	
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