



Committee and Date

Council

26th February 2015

Item

8

Public

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

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REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL – SCRUTINY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY ALLOWANCE AND MEMBERS ALLOWANCES SCHEME 2015/2016

1.0 SUMMARY

1.1 This report incorporates the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel on their review of the level of remuneration for Scrutiny Committee Chairmen and also the Members Allowances Scheme for 2015/2016.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

The Independent Remuneration Panel recommends to Council as follows:

(a) That the Special Responsibility Allowance paid to the Scrutiny Chairman be continued at its present level on the basis that further changes are expected to be made to the existing 5 Scrutiny Committee structure and are likely to be implemented in the near future.

(b) That the Independent Remuneration Panel be invited to review the allowance paid to the Scrutiny Chairman, and if appropriate, to the other Members of the Committee, upon more firm details being known about the new Scrutiny Committee structure, and for this review to take place, if possible, prior to the implementation of the new arrangements.

(c) That in the event of no new scrutiny committee arrangements being put in place in the near future the Panel be reconvened by the Summer at the latest to continue their review of the level of payment made to the existing 5 scrutiny committee chairman.

(d) That the remaining allowances in the current Members Allowances Scheme be continued in 2015/2016.

REPORT

3.0 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In approving the current Members' Allowances Scheme in February 2014 as set out in Appendix 2 Council also agreed to set up a working party comprising of the 4 Group Leaders, or their representatives, to look afresh at the Scheme in light of recent and expected changes to the role of elected Members in order that proposals might be submitted for future consideration to the Independent Remuneration Panel.
- 3.2 The Working Party subsequently met later in the year and agreed to ask the Panel to look into the remuneration payment made to the 5 scrutiny chairmen. Mention was also made to a review being undertaken of the allowance paid to the Chairmen of the 3 Planning Committees but this was not pursued by the Working Party in light of possible reductions in the near future in the number of planning committees.
- 3.3 Arrangements were therefore put in place for the Independent Remuneration Panel to meet in January to consider the level of remuneration paid to Scrutiny Chairman. The intention being for the outcome of the Panel's review to be submitted for consideration to Council in February 2015 together with the Panel's recommendation on the remaining allowances in the current scheme.
- 3.4 The Panel met on the 6th January 2015 to give consideration to these matters and their reasoning for the recommendations set out in paragraph 2 above are contained within the report attached at Appendix 1.

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)
None
Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)
Keith Barrow
Local Member
All
Appendices
Appendix 1 – Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel – Scrutiny Committee Chairman Special Responsibility Allowances and Members Allowances Scheme 2015/2016.
Appendix 2 – Current Members Allowances Scheme