

**FULL COUNCIL****8 FEBRUARY 2017****REPORT OF HEAD OF COMMUNICATIONS****MEMBER ALLOWANCES SCHEME 2017/18****1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To advise that the Council is to 'make' a Member Allowances Scheme for each year that the scheme relates.
- 1.2 To consider a revised Member Allowances Scheme for the forthcoming Civic Year 2017/18.
- 1.3 To note that In future years the scheme will form part of the Revenue Budget Setting report.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 To approve an updated Member Allowances Scheme to commence in the Civic Year 2017/18 (Appendix A).**
- 2.2 To note that in future years, the Member Allowances Scheme will be included for consideration as part of the Revenue Budget Setting report.**
- 2.3 To note that the Member Allowances Scheme contained at Part 6 of the Constitution be updated to reflect the scheme approved at this meeting with effect from the start of the new Civic Year 2017/18.**

**3.0 KEY ISSUES**

- 3.1 Each Council is to review its Member remuneration arrangements annually and approve a scheme for the forthcoming financial year to which the allowances relate and this report provides that opportunity to Members.
- 3.2 The Member Allowances Scheme was last reviewed by the independent Welland Remuneration Panel in summer 2016 and the Council approved the Panel's recommendations on 12 October 2016. During the review process, the structure of the Member Allowances Scheme document was considered by the Welland Remuneration Panel and changes were recommended to reflect a modernised model that was similar to that of Blaby District Council. Since then the document has been updated to reflect the Panel's comments and include legislative requirements and this document is available at Appendix A. There has been no change made to any of the allowances whilst reviewing the document and it reflects the recommendations and monetary values approved by the Full Council in October 2016. Whilst reviewing the document, two items have been added which reflect previous decisions and these are highlighted in red at pages 4 and 11 relating to the requirement for each Councillor to register as a Data Controller under the Data Protection Act and that this payment of £35 is made direct to the Information Commissioner's Office by the Council and the other relates to the

payment arrangements of a fee to the Chair of the Independent Remuneration Panel. Also some small amendments have been made which provide clarity to the administration of the scheme.

3.3 It is proposed that in future years, the opportunity to 'make' a Member Allowances Scheme for the forthcoming Civic year will be included within the Revenue Budget Setting report at the early February Full Council meeting so that Members may review the scheme when setting the budget for the forthcoming year.

3.4 The Member Allowances Scheme must not rely on its NJC index for annual adjustment for more than a four year period before seeking a recommendation from an Independent Remuneration Panel on the application of such an index. This index was last reviewed by the Welland Remuneration Panel in October 2016, therefore Melton is next due a review of its annual adjustment index arrangements in 2020. As previously, all allowances remain index linked to the NJC pay award scheme.

#### **4.0 POLICY & CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The ability to attract and retain interested and hard working Members is essential to enable the Council to meet its priorities and an appropriately set remuneration package is a contributing factor in achieving these aims.

#### **5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 There are no new financial implications contained within this report as it stands. There is the opportunity for Members to consider any change to the allowances scheme and subject to this, the position relating to financial implications could be affected.

#### **6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS/POWERS**

6.1 The Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 and the Local Authorities (Members Allowances)(England)(Amendment) Regulations 2003 sets out the requirements on the Council in making a Member Allowances Scheme and these requirements are included within the Council's proposed updated scheme at Appendix A.

#### **7.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY**

7.1 There are no direct links to community safety as a result of this report other than the role that Members take in relation to this area of the Council's work.

#### **8.0 EQUALITIES**

8.1 An equalities impact assessment has been undertaken on the scheme.

#### **9.0 RISKS**

9.1

<b>L I K E L I H O O D</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>Very High</b>				
	<b>B</b>	<b>High</b>				
	<b>C</b>	<b>Significant</b>				
	<b>D</b>	<b>Low</b>		1,2		
	<b>E</b>	<b>Very Low</b>				
	<b>F</b>	<b>Almost Impossible</b>				
			<b>Negligible 1</b>	<b>Marginal 2</b>	<b>Critical 3</b>	<b>Catastrophic 4</b>

**IMPACT**

<b>Risk No</b>	<b>Risk Description</b>
<b>1</b>	If Members' remuneration is not at an appropriate level the Council will not be able to recruit and retain good quality Members. The use of an independent remuneration panel with a professional Chair using data and statistics from other Councils should assist in reducing this risk to a low level.
<b>2</b>	In the current economic climate there is the risk that the Council cannot afford to fund significant increases without making cuts to services elsewhere.

## 10.0 CLIMATE CHANGE

10.1 There are no direct links to climate change as a result of this report

## 11.0 CONSULTATION

11.1 The Welland Remuneration Panel has reviewed the scheme and provided advice as to format and content.

## 12.0 WARDS AFFECTED

12.1 All wards are affected.

---

Contact Officer: Angela Roberts/Sarah Evans  
Date: January 2017  
Appendices: Appendix A – Proposed Member Allowances Scheme 2017/18  
Background Papers: Supporting papers held by Remuneration Panel  
Reference: X: Committees/Council/2016/17/080217