

Appendices: 0



**NORTHAMPTON**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

# **COUNCIL**

## **21<sup>st</sup> May 2015**

**Agenda Status: Public**

**Directorate: Chief Executive**

<b>Report Title</b>	<b>Members' Allowances Scheme</b>
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### **1. Purpose**

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1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Members about the requirement to review the Members' Allowances Scheme and to ask Members to confirm the position pending the outcome of the review.

### **2. Recommendations**

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Council is recommended to:

2.1 Confirm that Members' allowances are frozen at the current rate pending conclusion of a review of the Council's Members' Allowances Scheme by an Independent Remuneration Panel.

2.2 To delegate to the Borough Secretary the power to establish an Independent Remuneration Panel either as a Council Panel or as a joint panel, whichever is the most cost effective.

2.3 To note that a further report will be brought to Full Council with recommendations from the Remuneration Panel when established

### **3. Issues and Choices**

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#### **3.1 Report Background**

3.1.1 The Council operates a Members' Allowances Scheme pursuant to powers conferred by the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 (the "Regulations").

- 3.1.2 On 19<sup>th</sup> May 2011, Council resolved to retain the level of Members' allowances as they were at that time, and agreed that there would be no increase for the life of the Council in any of the allowances paid to Members.
- 3.1.3 The Regulations require the Members' Allowances Scheme to be reviewed periodically by an Independent Remuneration Panel.
- 3.1.4 Northampton Borough Council is due to review its Members' Allowances Scheme through an Independent Remuneration Panel. This is a statutory duty.
- 3.1.5 An Independent Remuneration Panel could be set up by the Council itself, or there is an option to join with other authorities and use the same Panel. An Independent Remuneration Panel is necessarily comprised of members who are not members of the authority. Councils have a duty to have regard to the recommendations made by the Independent Remuneration Panel before they amend their Members' Allowances Scheme, or adopt a new one. However, the ultimate decision on member allowances will be for the Council to make.
- 3.1.6 Members are asked to note that arrangements will now be made for the Northampton Borough Council Members' Allowances Scheme to be reviewed through an Independent Remuneration Panel, to ensure that Northampton Borough Council meets its statutory obligations. (It is likely that the Council will seek to use a joint Panel, as this would be more cost effective than the Council establishing its own Independent Remuneration Panel). The Council will then be asked to consider the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel, before adopting a new Scheme.
- 3.1.7 In the meantime, pending the outcome of the process outlined in paragraph 3.1.6 above, it is recommended that Council agree that all Members' allowances are frozen at their current rate.

## **4. Implications (including financial implications)**

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### **4.1 Policy**

- 4.1.1 There are no policy implications arising directly from this report.

### **4.2 Resources and Risk**

- 4.2.1 There are no resources implications arising directly from this report as it recommends retaining the status quo in the level of Members' allowances, up until the outcome of a review process.

### **4.3 Legal**

- 4.3.1 The legal implications are outlined in the body of the report.

#### **4.4 Equality**

4.4.1 There are no equalities implications directly relevant to this report. Equalities issues will need to be considered in full by the Independent Remuneration Panel during formulation of its recommendations, and by Council in its consideration of those recommendations.

#### **4.5 Other Implications**

4.5.1 None

#### **5. Background Papers**

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5.1 None

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