

# **MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

## **COUNCIL**

**22 APRIL 2015**

### **REPORT OF THE HEAD OF FINANCE AND RESOURCES**

**Report prepared by Caroline Matthews**

#### **1. MEMBERS' ALLOWANCE SCHEME**

##### **1.1 Issue for Decision**

1.1.1 To consider the recommendations set out in the report of the Joint Independent Remuneration Panel on Members' Allowances for Maidstone Borough Council (attached as **Appendix A**).

##### **1.2 Recommendation of the Head of Finance and Resources**

1.2.1 That the recommendations of the Joint Independent Remuneration Panel be considered and approved as follows:-

- (a) That the basic allowance for Members be increased by 5% to £4,900 per annum to reflect the enhanced role;
- (b) That the Leader of the Council/Chairman of Policy and Resources Committee's special responsibility allowance be reduced by 20% to reflect the change in the role under the new governance arrangements to £18,661 per annum;
- (c) That the Chairmen of Strategic Planning, Sustainability and Transport Committee; Communities, Housing and Environment Committee; and Planning Committee all be given a special responsibility allowance of £7,464 per annum;
- (d) That the Chairmen of Heritage, Culture and Leisure Committee; Audit, Governance and Standards Committee; and Licensing Committee all be given a special responsibility allowance of £3,732 per annum;
- (e) That the Group Leaders' Allowance (with the exception of the Leader) be held at £11,663 per annum to be apportioned dependent on the number of Members in each party as approved by Council at its previous meeting;
- (f) That there be no change to the Special Responsibility Allowances for Co-Opted Members of Standards Committee and the Independent Person, currently set at £331

and £700 respectively;

- (g) That there be no change to the Special Responsibility Allowances for the Chairman of Licensing Panel Hearings and Licensing Panel Hearing Members, currently set at £77 per session and £58 per session respectively;
- (h) That there be no change to the Special Responsibility Allowances for the Mayor and Deputy Mayor;
- (i) That there be no Special Responsibility Allowance set for Vice-Chairmen of Committees. However, provision should be built into the Council's Constitution which allows for a Vice Chairman to be given the Chairman's SRA allowance if the Chairman is absent for a significant period of time;
- (j) That the broadband allowance of £11.17 per Member be removed;
- (k) That the Dependent Carer's Allowance be paid as detailed in the report;
- (l) That there be no change to the current rates for Travel and Subsistence;
- (m) That only the Leader of the Council be given a mobile phone for Council business use;
- (n) That all Members should receive Member development and training and that in recognition of the increase to the basic allowance, all Members should take up current and future training development opportunities to support the revised governance arrangements; and
- (o) That the new Democracy Committee should carry out an evaluation of the new system in due course and that the Members' Allowance should be reviewed by the Panel in the next eighteen months to two years.

### 1.3 Reasons for Recommendation

1.3.1 The report of the Joint Independent Remuneration Panel on Members' Allowances is attached at **Appendix A**. In accordance with the requirements set out in the Local Government Act 2000 and subsequent Regulations, the Council is obliged to give consideration to the recommendations of the Panel. A copy of the current Members' Allowances Scheme is attached at **Appendix B**.

1.3.2 The recommendations of the Joint Independent Remuneration Panel will have no financial implications for the Council.

1.4 Alternative Action and why not Recommended

1.4.1 There is no alternative action. The Council must consider the Joint Independent Remuneration Panel's recommendations in accordance with the requirements set out in the Local Government Act 2000.

1.5 Impact on Corporate Objectives

1.5.1 None.

1.6 Risk Management

1.6.1 Not relevant to the decision being made.

1.7 Other Implications

1.7.1

- 1. Financial
- 2. Staffing
- 3. Legal
- 4. Equality Impact Needs Assessment
- 5. Environmental/Sustainable Development
- 6. Community Safety
- 7. Human Rights Act
- 8. Procurement
- 9. Asset Management


1.8 Relevant Documents

1.8.1 Appendices

Appendix A - Report of the Joint Independent Remuneration Panel  
Appendix B - Current Members' Allowances Scheme

1.8.2 Background Documents

None.

**IS THIS A KEY DECISION REPORT?**

Yes

No

If yes, when did it first appear in the Forward Plan?

.....

This is a Key Decision because: .....

.....

Wards/Parishes affected: .....

.....