

**MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL**

**24 JULY 2013**

**REPORT OF THE HEAD OF POLICY AND COMMUNICATIONS**

Report prepared by Janet Barnes

1. **MEMBERS' BROADBAND ALLOWANCE**

1.1 In May 2013 a report was sent to the Joint Independent Remuneration Panel ("JIRP") (copy attached at Appendix A) requesting their consideration of increasing the basic allowance for Members to incorporate the broadband allowance, following a suggestion made by the JIRP in January 2013.

1.2 As set out in the report at Appendix A, the administration of the current broadband allowance has become onerous for payroll, committee services and Members.

1.3 The Chairman of the JIRP, following consultation, responded with his recommendations on 5 June 2013 (attached at Appendix B).

1.2 **RECOMMENDED:**

1.2.1 That the basic allowance for Members be increased from £4,666 to £4,800 per annum to incorporate an allowance for Broadband with effect from 1 August 2013 and the Members Allowance Scheme updated accordingly.