

SCHEME OF MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES 2007/08

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1. Purpose

- 1.1 To present the report of the Independent Panel on Members' Allowances.
- 1.2 To seek agreement to a Scheme of Members' Allowances for 2007/08.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Council consider a Scheme of Members' Allowances to take effect from 1 April 2007.

3. Issues and Choices

- 3.1 At the meeting of the former Business Management Group held on 15 March 2006 (Minute BMG62 refers), approval was given to the appointment of an Independent Panel on Members' Allowances to report in time for the matter to be considered during the budget process for 2007/08.
- 3.2 Following a direct approach to a number of persons who had experience in chairing independent remuneration panels, and public advertisement for local representation on the Panel, the Head of Democratic Services appointed Professor Steve Leach to Chair the Panel, and Rev. Dr. James Cassidy, Mr Mike Geddes, Mr Ken Howells and Mr David Manuel as panel members.
- 3.3 The Panel met on three occasions, and the final report of the Panel is attached as an **Annex** to this report.
- 3.4 The report has been considered by the Group Leaders' Meeting, and by individual Groups, with a view to identifying a form of words which would have cross-party support.
- 3.5 It is anticipated, therefore, that a proposal will be submitted to the Council Meeting for approval.

4. Implications

- 4.1 Policy
None.

4.2 Resources and Risk

The approved scheme will need to be within the Council's approved budget for 2007/08. The amount proposed in the Cabinet recommendation of 19 December 2006 totals £665,115.

<input type="checkbox"/> X	Capital	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ✓	Revenue	<input type="checkbox"/> X	Accommodation
<input type="checkbox"/> X	IT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ✓	Medium Term Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> X	Asset Management

4.3 Legal

Under the terms of the Local Government Act 2000, the Council is required to take account of the recommendations of an independent panel before fixing its level of Members' Allowances. The independent panel needs to be reconvened on a regular basis.

4.4 Other Implications

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ✓	Equalities / Diversity	<input type="checkbox"/> X	Sustainability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ✓	Human Rights
<input type="checkbox"/> X	E-Government	<input type="checkbox"/> X	Stakeholders	<input type="checkbox"/> X	Crime and Disorder

Background Papers: Report of Independent Panel on Members' Allowances 2006