



**Meeting:** Council

**Date:** 7 April 2016

**Wards Affected:** All wards

**Report Title:** Members' Allowances – Recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel

**Is the decision a key decision?** No

**When does the decision need to be implemented?** As soon as possible

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## **1. Proposal and Introduction**

- 1.1 To ensure that Members receive allowances which reflect the level and time commitment required to fulfil their roles and that the scheme complies with relevant legislation and guidance.

## **2. Reason for Proposal**

- 2.1 To ensure the Members' Allowances Scheme is up to date.

## **3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision**

- 3.1 That the Council considers and endorse the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel which are set out in paragraphs 7(a) to (v) of Appendix 1; and
- 3.2 That, in light of the decision made in respect of 3.1 above, the Governance Support Manager be requested to bring the Members' Allowances Scheme up to date.

## **4. Background Documents**

- 4.1 The Independent Remuneration Panel met on 16 October and 5 November 2015 to review the Members' Allowances Scheme. The Panel resolved to:
- (a) review the level of basic allowance payable to all members;
  - (b) review the responsibilities and duties that should lead to the payment of a Special Responsibility Allowance and the level of any such allowance;
  - (c) review the level of allowance payable to co-opted members;
  - (d) review the duties for which travelling and subsistence allowances should be payable, the level of any such allowances and the method for payment;

- (e) review the level of allowance payable for childcare and dependent care; and
- (f) review the method adopted for the up-rating of allowances on an annual basis.

- 4.2 The Independent Remuneration Panel last undertook a review of the Members' Allowances Scheme in 2011 following the local elections. It is recommended that Panel's should meet at least once every four years to review members' allowances schemes to ensure that they are fit for purpose and continue to reflect the needs of the Authority.
- 4.3 The Panel's report was published on the Council's website on 19 January 2016. The Council is now required to consider the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel.
- 4.4 Members can decide to accept all of the recommendations of the Panel or approve particular ones.
- 4.5 The Panel's report set outs their methodology to their report and the reasoning behind their recommendations.

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1: A Review of Members' Allowances for Torbay Council – The Seventh Report by the Torbay Independent Remuneration Panel.

Appendix 2: The SRA's from the current Members' Allowances Scheme.