

# **Executive Committee**

## **25 April 2017**

### **Report of the Joint Independent Remuneration Panel**

#### **For Recommendation To Council**

#### **Portfolio Holder(s)**

Corporate

#### **Senior Leadership Team Contact:**

S Caundle, Assistant Chief Executive

#### **Report Author:**

S Caundle, Assistant Chief Executive

#### **Statutory Authority**

Local Government Act 2000, The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003.

#### **Purpose of Report**

- 1 To receive the report of the Joint Independent Remuneration Panel.

#### **Recommendations**

- 2 That the attached report and recommendations of the Joint Independent Remuneration Panel in respect of the Council's Scheme of Members' Allowances be presented to Full Council for formal consideration, subject to any comments or recommendations Executive Committee may wish to make.

#### **Reason for Decision**

- 3 To enable the Council to consider recommendations on the scheme of allowances following a fundamental review undertaken by the Joint Independent Remuneration Panel.

#### **Background**

- 4 Under the Local Government (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003, West Dorset District Council, like all local authorities, is required to establish an Independent Remuneration Panel to make recommendations to the Council in respect of its Scheme of Members' Allowances. When setting a scheme of allowances, the Council must have regard to the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel.

This fundamental review has been undertaken by a Joint Independent Remuneration Panel who has also undertaken a review of members' allowances for North Dorset District Council and Weymouth and Portland Borough Council.

The Joint Independent Remuneration Panel has concluded their fundamental review of the Council's Scheme of Members' Allowances and their report and recommendations are presented at appendix 1 for members' consideration.

Members will note that the report recommends continuation of SRAs for members of the Strategy Committee who hold formal portfolios, the appointments to which will be determined by the Strategy Committee itself.

## **Implications**

### **Financial**

The recommendations in the report of the Joint Independent Remuneration Panel, if agreed by Full Council, would result in a decrease in the members' allowances budget by £1,857 as a result of the reduction in the SRA for the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Licensing Committee.

In accordance with the Council's Scheme of Members' Allowances, allowances are adjusted annually in line with the same percentage as is awarded to officers through the nationally negotiated settlement. With effect from 1 April 2017, the basic and special responsibility allowances will be increased by 1%. Due to the timing of the review, the figures shown in the report of the Joint Independent Remuneration Panel are the figures for 2016/17.

### **Equalities**

The level of allowances paid to local councillors can have an effect on encouraging candidates for local elections from diverse backgrounds.

### **Risk Management (including Health & Safety)**

The council is required to have an Independent Remuneration Panel and to have regard to the recommendations of the panel in setting a scheme of members' allowances.

## **Consultation and Engagement**

All members of Council were invited to submit written representations for consideration by the Joint Independent Remuneration Panel. All Group Leaders were invited to meet with the panel.

Chief Executive, Assistant Chief Executive, representatives of the Corporate Management Team.

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – report of the Joint Independent Remuneration Panel

### **Background Papers**

West Dorset District Council Scheme of Members' Allowance (Part 6 of the Council's Constitution)

### **Footnote**

Issues relating to financial, environmental, economic and equalities implications have been considered and any information relevant to the decision is included within the report.

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