

Management Committee

11 July 2017

Report of the Joint Independent Remuneration Panel

For Recommendation To Council

Briefholder

Corporate Affairs and Continuous Improvement

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.

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, Weymouth and Portland Borough 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 West Dorset District Council.

The report of the Joint Independent Remuneration Panel has previously been considered by Management Committee on 18 April 2017 and Full Council on 1 June 2017. At Full Council, members deferred taking a decision in respect of the recommendations and asked for the Independent Remuneration Panel to be reconvened to consider in particular, the level of special responsibility allowance (SRA) for the Leader of Council. Further to this, the Independent Remuneration Panel held a question and answer session on 29 June 2017, open to all councillors.

Following the session, the statement set out below has been received from the Joint Independent Remuneration Panel:

"In accordance with the decision of the Council, the Panel invited all Councillors to meet with it to discuss the recommended increase in the SRA payable to the Chair of the Management Committee.

The Panel met with five Councillors on 29 June. A number of issues were raised with the Panel including the proposed increase in the SRA payable to the Chair of the Management Committee. However no evidence was provided to the Panel to justify a change to the recommendation indeed the majority of councillors present appeared to support the recommendation.

On this basis the Panel has decided not to amend its recommendation relating to the increase in the SRA payable to the Chair of the Management Committee as it remains of the view that this is consistent with the content of its report and the evidence received."

The report and recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel are presented at appendix 1 for members' consideration.

Implications

5 Financial

The recommendations in the report of the Joint Independent Remuneration Panel, if agreed by Full Council, would result in an increase in the members' allowances budget by £14,023*

* In accordance with the Scheme of Members' Allowances, allowances are adjusted annually in accordance with the % variation negotiated for local government officers and specifically in respect of the variation applied to spinal column point 34 on the officers' pay scales. 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.

- 6 **Equalities**
The level of allowances paid to local councillors can have an effect on encouraging candidates for local elections from diverse backgrounds.
- 7 **Environmental**
Not applicable
- 8 **Economic Development**
Not applicable
- 9 **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.
- 10 **Human Resources**
Not applicable

Consultation and Engagement

- 11 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, and representatives of the Corporate Management Team met with the panel.
The report and recommendations have previously been considered by Management Committee on 18 April 2017 and Full Council on 1 June 2017.
Question and answer session open to all councillors, held by the Joint Independent Remuneration Panel on 29 June 2017.

Appendices

- 12 Appendix 1 – report of the Joint Independent Remuneration Panel

Background Papers

- 13 Weymouth and Portland Borough Council Scheme of Members' Allowances (Part F 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.

Cover Report Author: Stuart Caundle, Assistant Chief Executive

Telephone: (01305) 838040

Email: scaundle@dorset.gov.uk

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