

REPORT TO CABINET

Open		Would any decisions proposed :		
Any especially affected Wards	Mandatory	(a) Be entirely within Cabinet's powers to decide NO		
		(b) Need to be recommendations to Council YES		
		(c) Is it a Key Decision YES		
Lead Member: Cllr N Daubney E-mail: cllr.nick.daubney@west-norfolk.gov.uk		Other Cabinet Members consulted:		
Lead Officers: Sam Winter E-mail: sam.winter@west-norfolk.gov.uk Direct Dial: 01553 616327		Other Members consulted:		
		Other Officers consulted: Chief Executive, S151 Officer		
Financial Implications YES	Policy/Personnel Implications YES	Statutory Implications YES	Equality Impact Assessment required NO	Risk Management Implications NO

Date of meeting: 5 April 2016

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT MEMBERS ALLOWANCES PANEL FOR 2016/17

Summary

This item introduces the report of the Independent Members Allowances Panel for the 2016/2017 financial year and invites the Cabinet to consider the content and recommendations and then make formal recommendations to Council accordingly.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1) The Cabinet is invited to comment on the recommendations of the Panel and make onward recommendations to Council in order to set the levels of remuneration for Councillors with effect from 21 May 2015.
- 2) That the Cabinet recommend to Council that the Scheme of Allowances be updated accordingly.
- 3) That for the next four years, any increases in allowances be linked to staff pay awards.
- 4) That the recommendation to delete the IT allowance is not agreed.

Reason for Decision

To comply with the requirements of The Local Authorities (Member's Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 and set the allowances for 2016/17

1 **THE INDEPENDENT PANEL**

All local authorities must have regard to the recommendations of their Independent Panel before making decisions on the Member's Allowances Scheme.

The Independent Panel for the current year is made up of the following members:

- Mark Palmer, South East Employers Organisation
- David Dixon, Media Representative
- Mike Press, Community Representative

It is anticipated that a member of the Independent Panel will attend the Cabinet Meeting to present the report and respond to any questions from the Cabinet.

2 **MEMBERS ALLOWANCES SCHEME**

The Council operates a Members Allowances Scheme which is updated each time to include the new levels and tax/NI implications for the current year. There are no other changes made to the scheme

3 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The table below shows the costs of the Panel's proposals

Allowance/SRA	Current	Recommendations
Basic Allowance	£5,140	£5,581
Leader of Council and Chairman of Cabinet	£14,760	£15,345
Vice Chair	£8,070	£8,440
Members	£6,600	£6,905
Asst. to Leader	£870	£870
Cabinet Scrutiny Committee and Policy and Review Panels		
Chairmen	£2,000	£2,148
Vice-Chairmen	£870	£859

Planning Committee Chairman Vice-Chairman	£5,050 £2,200	£6,138 £2,445
Licensing and Appeals Board Chairman and Licensing Committee Chairman Vice Chairmen	£5,050 £2,200	£5,050 £3,778 (Chairman AB) £1,262 (Chairman LC) £1,515 (VC of AB) £ 505 (VC of LC)
Standards Committee Chairman Vice-Chairman	£760 £380	£767 £307
Key Task Groups – if any Chairman	£170	No SRA
Mayor Deputy Mayor	£5,800 £2,030	£5,800 £2,030
Larger Opp. Group Leader	£680	£767
Larger Opp. Group Deputy Leader	£340	No SRA
Other Opp. Group Leader/s	£400	£460
Other Opp. Group Deputy Leader/s	£210	No SRA
Chairman of Kings Lynn Area Committee	No current SRA	£279

The cost of the increase backdated to the Annual Council meeting on 21 May 2015 if adopted is £60,800 in the first year and £32,482 thereafter.

It is suggested for the next four years, that any further increase to allowances be linked to staff pay awards.

The report recommends that the current payment of £12.50 per month for members ICT Broadband allowance be deleted. It is recommended that this allowance be continued.

4 **STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS**

It is a statutory requirement for the Council to taken into account the comments and recommendations of the Independent Panel prior to setting its Allowances levels for the year.

5 **BACKGROUND PAPERS**