

PLYMOUTH CITY COUNCIL

Subject	Members' Allowance Scheme
Committee	City Council
Date	25 April 2013
Cabinet Member	Councillor Peter Smith
CMT Member	David Trussler (Interim Director for Corporate Services)
Author	Judith Shore, Democratic and Member Support Manager
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Key Decision	No
Part:	I

Purpose of the report:

The Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) has undertaken a review of the existing scheme of Members' Allowances and considered whether any changes should be recommended in accordance with legislative requirements, the government's statutory guidance and recent changes to the committee structure.

The Panel reviewed background information including the reports of the reviews of Plymouth City Council's Members' Allowances undertaken in February 2008 and February 2010 and the allowances of the fourteen other 'comparator' councils, issued a questionnaire to all Members, held interviews with a cross section of Members and Officers, reviewed interview and questionnaire evidence and arrived at their recommendations.

The Brilliant Co-operative Council Corporate Plan 2013/14 -2016/17

None directly arising.

Implications for Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications Including finance, human, IT and land

The Panel noted that Members Allowances had not increased since 2009. This was in line with local government employees' salaries, which had also (until this financial year) not increased since 2009.

The estimated costs of the proposed scheme would be as follows:

	PREVIOUS (£)	NEW (£)	VARIATION (£)
Basic allowance	570,881.74	576,581.71	5,699.97
Special responsibilities	313,740.10	316,876.84	3,136.74
Lord Mayor and Deputy	18,557.64	18,746.16	188.52
NI	58,462.31	59,754.83	1,292.52
Pension	59,771.25	59,822.40	51.15
Total	1,021,413.04	1,031,781.94	10,368.90

Other Implications: e.g. Child Poverty, Community Safety, Health and Safety and Risk Management

None directly arising.

Equality and Diversity

No implications

Recommendations and Reasons for recommended action:

Members are asked to consider the recommendations contained within the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel as follows:

1. retain the existing level of the Basic Allowance and Special Responsibility Allowances (See Appendix B) subject to annual increase in line with the percentage increase of the local government pay award.
2. retain the existing level of allowances for the Lord Mayor and the Deputy Lord Mayor and include the allowances within the Members' Allowance Scheme, subject to annual increase in line with the percentage increase of the local government pay award (see Appendix B).
3. retain the existing travelling and subsistence arrangements and amend in line with any changes negotiated to the 'Plymouth Book' (see Appendix B).
4. retain all other arrangements (see the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel)

The legislation states that the Council must have regard to the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel when determining the Members' Allowance Scheme.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

It is a legal requirement to regularly review the Members' Allowance Scheme.

Published work / information:

Members' Allowances Review – [February 2008](#) and [Minutes](#)

Members' Allowances Interim Review – [February 2010](#) and [Minutes](#)

Statutory Instrument No. 1021 – The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003, the Statutory Guidance on Members' Allowances for local authorities in England

Background papers

None

Sign off:

Fin	CF/CorpsF DD1314001 .08.11.13	Leg	18818/ DVS	Mon Off	TH 0132	HR		Assets		IT		Strat Proc	
Originating SMT Member: Assistant Director for Democracy and Governance													
Has the Cabinet Member agreed the contents of the report? Yes													