

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Monday, 25 June 2018

COUNCILLORS' ALLOWANCES REPORT

Report of the Performance and Governance Manager

Recommendations:

It is recommended that Administration Committee:

- (1) considers the purpose of the Independent Review of Councillor allowances
 - (2) considers the findings of the Independent Remuneration Panel and makes recommendations to Council
-

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to outline the findings of the Independent Remuneration Panel who have conducted a full review of councillors' allowances for Eastleigh Borough Council and to make recommendations as to the level of the Basic Allowance and of Special Responsibility Allowances for the year 2018/2019 and beyond for a maximum four year period. The panel has also considered recommendations in respect of the Dependants' Carers' Allowance and the scheme for travel and subsistence as outlined in the attached report.

Statutory Powers

Local Government Act 2000 and the Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003

Strategic Implications

- 1 This report does not have a direct impact on the achievement of Corporate Plan objectives. However, the independent review of Councillor's allowances supports the Council's obligations to provide effective and transparent governance.

Introduction

2. The Local Government Act 2000 and the Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 require local authorities to review

their Councillors' Allowances Scheme and to appoint Independent Remuneration Panels to consider and make recommendations on new/revised schemes. The Regulations state that the Panel must make recommendations in respect of the following issues:

- Basic Allowance – each local authority must make provision for a basic, flat rate allowance payable to all Councillors;
 - Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA) – each local authority may make provision for the payment of Special Responsibility Allowances to those Councillors who have significant responsibilities. The Panel has to recommend the responsibilities that should be paid and the levels of each allowance;
 - Co-optees' allowance – each local authority may make provision for the payment of an allowance to co-optees for attending meetings, conferences and seminars;
 - Childcare and Dependants' Carers' Allowance – local authorities may make provision for the payment of an allowance to those Councillors who incur expenditure for the care of children or dependent relatives whilst undertaking particular duties;
 - Indexation – each local authority may determine that allowances should be increased in accordance with a specified index and can identify the index and set the number of years (not exceeding four) for which it should apply;
 - Backdating – each local authority may determine that, where amendments are made to an allowances scheme, the allowances as amended may be backdated;
 - Travel and subsistence – each local authority may determine the levels of travel and subsistence allowances and the duties to which they should apply.
 - The Government removed councillors from the Local Government Pension Scheme. This has resulted in a saving to the Council of £880 in 2018/19
3. The attached report from the Independent Remuneration Panel outlines their findings and the thinking behind their recommendations (appendix A). An overview of current costs and proposed costs is attached in appendix B.

The Role of the Council

4. Whilst it is the responsibility of the Panel to make recommendations on a councillor's allowances scheme, it is ultimately for Council to make the final decision on the scheme and to accept or reject recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel.

5. To ensure openness and transparency, the Council is required to make generally available, the details of its Councillors' Allowances Scheme. As with the 2010 scheme, the Council's decisions will be drawn together in a user-friendly format for both Councillors and members of the public.

Financial Implications

6. It is anticipated that the recommendations made by the Independent Remuneration Panel would result in a slight decrease in the overall cost of the Councillors' Allowance Scheme for 2018/19 (see appendix A and B).

Risk Assessment

7. There are no risks arising from this report.

Equality and Diversity Implications

8. The Equality Act is not relevant to the decision in this report as the decision does not relate to eliminating discrimination, advancing equality of opportunity, or fostering good relations between different people. An Equality Impact Assessment has not been carried out.

Conclusion

9. Members of Administration Committee are asked to review and make recommendations to Council on the full review of councillors' allowances for Eastleigh Borough Council carried out by the Independent Remuneration Panel and to make recommendations as to the level of the Basic Allowance and of Special Responsibility Allowances for the year 2018/2019 and beyond for a maximum four year period. Committee are also asked to consider recommendations in respect of the Dependants' Carers' Allowance and the scheme for travel and subsistence as outlined in the report.

Gaetana Wiseman
Performance and Governance Manager

Date: 11 June 2018
Contact Officer: Gaetana Wiseman
Tel No: 023 8068 8174
e-mail: gaetana.wiseman@eastleigh.gov.uk
Appendices Attached: 2

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 - SECTION 100D

The following is a list of documents which disclose facts or matters on which this report or an important part of it is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. This list does not include any published works or documents which would disclose exempt or confidential information.

Background papers: None