

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

COUNCIL – 22 FEBRUARY 2012

REPORT BY HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC AND LEGAL SUPPORT  
SERVICES

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MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES 2012/13

WARD(S) AFFECTED: All

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**Purpose/Summary of Report**

- To report the recommendations of the Council's Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) following its review of Members' Allowances.

<b><u>RECOMMENDATION:</u></b> that (A) Members' Allowances for 2012/13 be ....., and
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(B) the size of the Independent Remuneration Panel be decreased from 9 to 8 members (with the existing appointees).
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1.0 Background

1.1 The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 requires each principal local authority to establish an Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) to submit recommendations on its Members' Allowances.

1.2 Council established its current IRP at its meeting held on 8 December 2010. It determined that the size of the Panel should be increased to 9 members and appointed the following individuals:

Mrs N Burdett, Mr P Boylan, Mr B C Engel, Mr D Filer, Mr C Harris, Miss C Lofthouse, Mr D McNeill, Mrs S Newton and Mr J Pool.

1.3 Mr D McNeil subsequently resigned from the Panel on 5 October 2011.

1.4 Council is invited to consider whether or not to fill the vacancy on the IRP caused by Mr McNeil's resignation. Regulations prescribe that an IRP shall consist of at least three members. Council could therefore determine that the size of the Panel now be eight members (with the existing appointees). This (latter) option is recommended.

## 2.0 Report

2.1 Before a local Authority makes or amends its Members' Allowances Scheme it shall have regard to the recommendations made by its IRP.

2.2 The Council's IRP's report and recommendations on Members' Allowances for 2012/13 can be found at **Essential Reference Paper 'B'**.

2.3 Council is invited to consider the IRP's recommendations before determining a Members' Allowances scheme for 2012/13.

## 3.0 Implications/Consultations

3.1 Information on any corporate issues and consultation associated with this report can be found within **Essential Reference Paper 'A'**.

## Background Papers

None

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## ESSENTIAL REFERENCE PAPER 'A'

Contribution to the Council's Corporate Priorities/ Objectives <i>(delete as appropriate):</i>	<b>Fit for purpose, services fit for you</b> <i>Deliver customer focused services by maintaining and developing a well managed and publicly accountable organisation.</i>  <b>Leading the way, working together</b> <i>Deliver responsible community leadership that engages with our partners and the public.</i>
Consultation:	None.
Legal:	The Authority is required, before the beginning of each year, to make a scheme for the payment of specified allowances. Before making a scheme, the Authority shall have regard to the recommendations made to it by its IRP.
Financial:	The recommended 5p per mile increase in the travel allowance would be an additional cost of about £1400 per year. This would be contained within the overall provision for allowances and expenses in the 2012/13 budget.
Human Resource:	None
Risk Management:	See legal implications above.