

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE – 10 JULY 2013

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND SUPPORT SERVICES

12. UPDATE ON PAYMENTS TO MEMBERS FOR ICT EXPENSES-
OBJECTION TO THE 2011-12 ACCOUNTS

WARD(S) AFFECTED: NONE

Purpose/Summary of Report:

- This report details the Council's response to the External Auditors' recommendations in relation to payments to members for ICT expenses. The Audit Committee approved a report at its meeting on 13 March 2013 which detailed the Council's response to an objection to the 2011-12 accounts, including the recommendation to recover specific payments from Councillors and former Councillors.

RECOMMENDATION FOR AUDIT COMMITTEE: that

(A)	The current position of recovering monies in relation to payments made outside the Members Allowance Scheme, as detailed in the report now submitted, be noted.
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1.0 Background

- 1.1 Audit Committee approved a report on 13 March 2013 that detailed the Council's response to an objection that was received by the External Auditor to the Council's accounts for 2011/12.
- 1.2 The response that was tabled included agreement that Council would pursue appropriate recovery of unlawful payments from Councillors. This report describes the actions taken to date.

2.0 Report

- 2.1 Recovery of overpayments was approved for three categories of payments. Progress to date is detailed below.

2.2

<u>£35 payments made outside Members Allowance Scheme from May 2011 to 31st March 2012.</u>	
All current EHC members	Recovery will be made from members' allowances in 2013/14.

Arrangements have been put in place to recover payments from current members through Payroll during 2013/14.

2.3

<u>£35 payments made outside Members Allowance Scheme from May 2011 to 31st March 2012.</u>	
EHC members who have resigned in year	Recovery will be undertaken through invoice action.

Invoices have been raised to recover payments from former Members.

2.4

<u>Error by the Council where broadband and IST lines were not cut-off promptly.</u>	
All / any telephone call payments	Any bill for calls over £5 to be invoiced.

Invoices have been raised to recover all bills for calls over £5.

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

Audit Committee report "Council's Response to Auditors Recommendations Relating to An Objection to 2011-2012 Accounts-Follow Up Actions", 13 March 2013.

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