

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

COUNCIL – 18 FEBRUARY 2015

REPORT BY HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC AND LEGAL SUPPORT
SERVICES

MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES 2015/16

WARD(S) AFFECTED: All

Purpose/Summary of Report

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

<u>RECOMMENDATION:</u> that (A) Members' Allowances for 2015/16 be, and
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(B) the size of the Independent Remuneration Panel be decreased from 6 to 5 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 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 resigned from the Panel on 5 October 2011. Council agreed to reduce the size of the Panel from 9 to 8 Members at its February 2012 meeting. Subsequently, another Panel Member (Mr C Harris) died before the Panel commenced its deliberations

during the 2012/13 civic year. Council at its February 2013 meeting agreed to reduce the size of the Panel again from 8 to 7 Members. Prior to the commencement of the review of allowances for 2014/15, Panel Member Miss C Lofthouse resigned. Council at its February 2014 meeting agreed to reduce the size of the Panel again from 7 to 6 Members

- 1.4 Prior to the commencement of the review of allowances for 2015/16, Panel Member Mr D Filer resigned.
- 1.5 Council is invited to consider whether or not to fill the vacancy on the IRP caused by Mr Filer'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 five members (with the existing appointees). This (latter) option is recommended (although Council may wish to determine to reappoint the existing members but authorise officers to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr Filer – thus retaining a Panel of 6 members).

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 2015/16 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 2015/16.

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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