

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

COUNCIL – 17 FEBRUARY 2016

REPORT BY HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC AND LEGAL SUPPORT  
SERVICES

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MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES 2016/17

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>RECOMMENDATIONS:</u> that (A) Members' Allowances for 2016/17 be ....., and</b>
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<b>(B) officers be authorised to recruit and appoint three people to fill the vacancies on the Authority's Independent Remuneration Panel before the commencement of its work to review and make recommendations on members' allowances for 2017/18.</b>
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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. On completion of the review and finalisation of recommendations for allowances for 2016/17, Panel Member Bernard Engel confirmed his resignation.
- 1.5 Regulations prescribe that an IRP shall consist of at least three members.
- 1.6 Council, at its meeting on 18 February 2015 agreed that the size of the Independent Remuneration Panel be increased from 6 to 7 members, with existing appointees being retained and Officers being authorised to fill the two vacancies. Following confirmation that all of the then remaining Panel members would continue in their roles it was determined not to progress work to fill the vacancies at that time.
- 1.7 There are now three vacancies on the Panel. It is recommended that officers now progress filling all three vacancies in time for the commencement of the next review in Autumn 2016.

## 2.0 Report

- 2.1 Before a local Authority makes, or amends, a 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 2016/17 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 2016/17.

### 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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