

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL – 29 MARCH 2017

REPORT BY THE MONITORING OFFICER

MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

Purpose/Summary of Report

- **This report concerns the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2017/18.**

<u>RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COUNCIL:</u> that:	
(A)	the appointment of three new Independent Remuneration Panel Members be noted; and
(B)	the deadline for consideration of the Members' Allowance Scheme be extended until Annual Council in May 2017.

1.0 Background

1.1 The Council's Constitution requires the Members' Allowance Scheme to be reviewed by an Independent Remuneration Panel every year and by the deadline of 31 March. A quorum of three Members is required. Three new IRP Members have recently been appointed by the (former) Monitoring Officer under his delegated authority. Training will be required before a meeting of the IRP can be convened and this is currently being arranged. In the circumstances, Members are asked to note the appointment of the three new Members and to extend the current Members' Allowance Scheme for consideration at Annual Council in May 2017.

2.0 Report

2.1 The Council's Constitution requires the Members' Allowance

Scheme to be reviewed by an Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) every year and by a deadline of 31 March. A quorum of three Members is required. Three new IRP Members have recently been appointed by the former Monitoring Officer under his delegated authority. The three new Members bring a range of expertise and knowledge and will be valuable additions to the existing (two) Panel Members (Sally Newton and Jonathan Poole). The new members are:

- Nicholas Moss
- Christopher Leage
- Glenn Sexton

2.2 It is important to note that before an IRP meeting can be convened, new appointees will need to be given appropriate training. This is currently being arranged by the Monitoring Officer and has not been possible to arrange prior to this meeting.

2.3 Members will recall that Council on 1 March 2017 approved changes to the new committee structure with the formation of two new committees; Performance, Audit and Governance and Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The formation of these new committees may impact on the Special Responsibility Allowance (SPA) scheme which will need to be addressed when the Constitution is submitted for consideration. Changes to the Constitution are currently being drafted by the Governance Consultant (and former Acting Head of Legal and Democratic Services) in line with the decision of Audit and Governance Committee in September 2016 and the Localism Act 2011 (and other statutory requirements).

2.4 The Monitoring Officer will report back on both these issues at Annual Council and on the suggestion that future reviews of the Members' Allowance Scheme take place at Annual Council.

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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