

Wiltshire Council

Council

11 July 2017

Notice of Motion No. 2 – Members’ Allowances

Councillors Gavin Grant and Brian Mathew

To consider the following motion submitted in accordance with the constitution:

Background

“Council notes that in 2013 allowances for the Leader, Deputy Leader, Cabinet Members, Portfolio Holders and Chairs of Committees were raised by 22% at a significant cost to Wiltshire residents.

This rise took place at a time when salaries for Wiltshire Council staff and other public sector workers were subject to a fixed 1% pay increase, along with non-portfolio holding councillors who received a single 1% pay increase.

To this end, some members have questioned whether it is appropriate to return the Leader, Deputy Leader, Cabinet Members, Portfolio holders and Chairs of Committees to the 2013 levels prior to those increases having been made plus the addition of the one off 1% increases received by other Councillors.

Pursuant to the Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 before the Council could consider any amendment to the scheme it must refer the matter to the Independent Review Panel

Motion

To refer the scheme to the Independent Remuneration Panel to report and make recommendations on any changes to the scheme including drawing the attention of the Panel to the background above for consideration as part of that review.

Briefing Note

1. The Council is required to establish a scheme for the payment of member allowances in accordance with the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003. This includes a requirement to set up an advisory Independent Remuneration Panel ('IRP') to advise and make recommendations on Members' allowances.
2. Before the Council makes or amends a scheme of allowances it must have regard to the recommendations of the IRP. In making its recommendations the IRP will have regard to national guidance and advisory information, comparative information from other local authorities, and local evidence, including the views of individual members.
3. The Council's current Scheme of Members' Allowances is set out in Part 13 of the Constitution - [http://cms.wiltshire.gov.uk/documents/s132520/Part 13 Members Allowance Scheme.pdf](http://cms.wiltshire.gov.uk/documents/s132520/Part_13_Members_Allowance_Scheme.pdf). This was adopted by the Council in November 2013 following consideration of a detailed review report by the Independent Remuneration Panel, which may be found at: <http://cms.wiltshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=130&MId=7374&Ver=4>
4. The Scheme adopted by the Council in 2013 set a level for Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances and provided a mechanism for those allowances to be increased annually by the same percentage as council staff pay increased for the period until 2016/17. There is no provision for any increases beyond that year so it is necessary to refer the matter to the Independent Review Panel in accordance with the 2003 regulations. Therefore, it is intended to convene the IRP to undertake a review and make recommendations on members' allowances for 2017/18 and the next four years for consideration by Council at the earliest opportunity.