

Wiltshire Council

Council

12 November 2013

**Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel
on Councillors' Allowances**

Purpose of report

1. To set the financial context for the following report on the agenda from the Independent Remuneration Panel.

Main Considerations for the Council

2. The Independent Panel has undertaken a detailed review of the current scheme of Councillors' allowances.

3. The Panel's remit is to recommend to the Council a scheme of allowances. It has however no remit over the budget for allowances as this is a matter for the Council.

4. The Council is asked to take into account the information contained within this report when considering the recommendations of the Panel.

Budget Provision 2013/14

5. The Panel has recommended that the basic allowance is increased to £12,289 per annum and backdated to 7 May 2013. The costs associated with this recommendation are approximately £12,000 in 2013/2014.

6. The recommendations from the Panel in relation to increases in and new Special Responsibility Allowances (SRAs) and other miscellaneous costs total approximately £106,000 in 2013/2014.

9. Employer's National Insurance contributions would be payable against both the basic and special responsibility allowances and these would also need to be taken into account in 2013/2014. These total approximately £9,000 should the Panel's recommendations be fully implemented.

11. The current budget and estimated cost of members' allowances is £1.700 million. If the Council were to agree the Panel's recommendations in full, the total excess would be approximately £127,000.

12. Should the Council agree the recommendations in full or indeed in part, savings will be required. Efforts are in hand to identify savings within the

appropriate budget and these will be identified within the appropriate budget monitoring reports to Cabinet.

Future Budget Provision

13. The Panel has been asked to set the allowances for the life of the Council. The Panel has therefore recommended that all allowances should be increased annually to reflect the annual pay award to staff.

14. Subject to the Council approving this recommendation, these additional costs will need to be taken into account in the budget setting process for 2014/15 and future budgets.

Risk Assessment

15. There are no specific risks associated with the proposals in this report.

Financial Implications

16. These are explicit in this report and the Chief Financial Officer has been consulted in the preparation of this report.

Legal Implications

17. The review of the scheme of allowances has been conducted in accordance with The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003.

Safeguarding considerations

18. There are no safeguarding implications to this report.

Public Health Implications

19. There are no public health implications to this report.

Recommendation

The Council is asked to take into account the financial context set out within this report when considering the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel.

**Ian Gibbons,
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