

Council

21 July 2016



Title	Members' Allowances Scheme 2016/17		
Purpose of the report	To make a decision		
Report Author	Gillian Hobbs, Committee Manager		
Cabinet Member	Councillor Ian Harvey	Confidential	No
Cabinet Values	Accountability		
Recommendations	To consider the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel, set out in full in the attached report, and recommend the amended scheme to Council.		

1. Key issues

- 1.1 The Independent Remuneration Panel met on 25 January 2016 to review the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2016/17.
- 1.2 It is a matter for the Council to decide the level of members' allowances under the Spelthorne Members' Allowances' Scheme.
- 1.3 The function of the Independent Remuneration Panel (the Panel) is to provide the Council with advice on the type of its allowances and the amounts to be paid.
- 1.4 The statutory position is that Spelthorne Borough Council "shall have regard to" the advice from the Panel and the Council cannot make any changes to its Scheme of Members' Allowances without first considering the Panel's advice on the issues involved. The Panel acknowledges that it is a matter for the Council to decide the level of Members' Allowances. In having regard to the Panel's advice, the Council is to "give proper consideration" to the Panel's report. In this way, the Council can take full account of its particular circumstances and be directly accountable to its electorate.

2. Options analysis and proposal

- 2.1 The proposals recommended by the Panel are set out in detail in the attached report. A summary of the Panel's recommendations can be found on pages 17-18 of the report.

3. Other considerations

- 3.1 There are none.

4. Financial implications

- 4.1 The budget for Members' Allowances for 2015/16 was £205k, (based on the current Cabinet of 8 members, i.e. Leader, Deputy Leader and 6 Cabinet members). Taking into account the proposed increases in Members' Allowances recommended by the Panel, a budget of £239,905 will be required for 2016/17 for a proposed Cabinet of 9 members, i.e. Leader, Deputy Leader and 7 Cabinet members.

5. Timetable for implementation

- 5.1 Subject to approval by Council on 21 July 2016, increases in the levels of basic and special responsibility and other allowances will be backdated to take effect from 1 April 2016.

Background papers: There are none.

Appendices:

Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel – April 2016