

Cabinet

19 July 2017



Title	Members' Allowances Scheme 2017/18		
Purpose of the report	To make a recommendation to Council		
Report Author	Gillian Hobbs, Committee Manager		
Cabinet Member	Councillor Ian Harvey	Confidential	No
Corporate Priority	This item is not in the current list of Corporate priorities but still requires a Cabinet decision		
Recommendations	Cabinet is asked to consider the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel, set out in full in the attached report, and recommend the amended scheme to Council.		
Reason for Recommendation	The Council is required to make a scheme of allowances and the Independent Remuneration Panel is appointed by the Council to advise on the type of its allowances and the amounts to be paid.		

1. Key issues

- 1.1 The Independent Remuneration Panel met on 24 May 2017 and 20 June 2017 to review the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2017/18.
- 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 9-10 of the report.

2.2 Cabinet is asked to consider the Panel's recommendations and make a recommendation to Council.

3. Other considerations

3.1 There are none.

4. Financial implications

4.1 The budget agreed in February 2017 for Members' Allowances for 2017/18 was £308,600. Taking into account the proposed increases in Members' Allowances recommended by the Panel, a budget of £327,913 will be required for 2017/18.

5. Timetable for implementation

5.1 Subject to approval by the Council on 20 July 2017, increases in the levels of basic and special responsibility and other allowances will be backdated to take effect from 1 April 2017.

5.2 In accordance with the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 the Scheme will be made available on the website and a notice published in a local newspaper giving details of the Scheme and the amounts payable in respect of each allowance mentioned in the Scheme.

Background papers: There are none.

Appendices:

Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel – June 2017