



Policy and Resources Committee - 7 June 2010

Members' Allowances - Review

Summary

This report sets in motion the process for reviewing the Members' Allowances to enable a new Scheme to be in place at the beginning of 2011/12.

Attachment(s)

None

1. The Constitution Review Group (CRG) made recommendations, within the last cycle of meetings, on some minor changes to the Members' Allowances Scheme (Part 6 of the Constitution). These were agreed at the Council meeting on 26 April 2010. In addition, for the second year running the Council adopted the Scheme based on rates of allowance initially agreed for 2008/09.
2. CRG feels that a more significant review is also required. In order for a major review of the Scheme to meet legislative requirements, an independent Remuneration Panel must meet to recommend a new or amended Scheme to full Council.
3. In 2007 the Council, felt that the most appropriate way to proceed in relation to Members' Allowances was to establish a Remuneration Working Group to formulate detailed representations. This presented to the independent Remuneration Panel the appropriate level of allowances to reflect the various roles and responsibilities of Members.
4. The CRG would wish to follow a similar path to implement changes to the Scheme for 2011/12. It is suggested that the Terms of Reference of the Working Group are to formulate detailed representations to a Remuneration Panel on the appropriate structure and level of allowances to reflect changes to, and future responsibilities of, Members from May 2011.
5. The CRG recommend that the Working Group start its work as soon as possible so that the representations can be fed into a Remuneration Panel in the Autumn. It is suggested that the representations to be made be endorsed by the Committee by no later than the meeting on 11 October 2010.
6. The CRG has also asked that the possibility of using the Remuneration Panel which currently makes recommendations to Northamptonshire County Council be explored.
7. It is therefore recommended that:
 - (1) A Remuneration Working Group be established with the Terms of Reference outlined in paragraph 4 above.
 - (2) The number of Members to serve on the Group be determined (7 Members served in 2007)
 - (3) The names of Members be determined (if it is desired to go beyond the membership of this Committee, a decision will need to be made by the Council meeting on 19 July).
 - (4) Officers explore options for appointing an Independent Remuneration Panel

including the possible use of the Panel which makes recommendations to Northamptonshire County Council, and the Chief Finance Officer be authorised to determine, in consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader, the most appropriate Panel to be appointed.

Implications:					
Corporate Outcomes or Other Policy/Priority/Strategy					
Good Quality of Life		<input type="checkbox"/>	Good Reputation		<input type="checkbox"/>
Good Value for Money		<input type="checkbox"/>	High Quality Service Delivery		<input type="checkbox"/>
Effective Partnership Working		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Strong Community Leadership		<input type="checkbox"/>
Effective Management		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Knowledge of our Customers and Communities		<input type="checkbox"/>
Employees and Members with the Right Knowledge, Skills and Behaviours					<input type="checkbox"/>
Other: Review of the Council's Constitution					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Decision(s) would be outside the budget or policy framework and require full Council approval					<input type="checkbox"/>
Financial	There are no financial implications at this stage				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	There will be financial implications – see paragraph				<input type="checkbox"/>
	There is provision within existing budget				<input type="checkbox"/>
	Decisions may give rise to additional expenditure at a later date				<input type="checkbox"/>
	Decisions may have potential for income generation				<input type="checkbox"/>
Risk Management	An assessment has been carried out and there are no material risks				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Material risks exist and these are recorded at Risk Register Reference - inherent risk score - residual risk score -				<input type="checkbox"/>
Staff	There are no additional staffing implications				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Additional staff will be required – see paragraph				<input type="checkbox"/>
Equalities and Human Rights	There will be no impact on equality (race, age, gender, disability, religion/belief, sexual orientation) or human rights implications				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	There will be an impact on equality (see categories above) or human rights implications – see paragraph				<input type="checkbox"/>
Legal	Power: The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003,				
	Other considerations:				
Background Papers: Minutes of CRG					
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Date: 21 May 2010					
CFO		MO		CX	

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