

**REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL –
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MEMBERS’ ALLOWANCES FOR 2015-16 AND THE
MEMBERS ALLOWANCES SCHEME**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillors B Hartnett, Leader and J Fisher, Portfolio Holder for Corporate Management
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Claire Felton
Ward(s) Affected	All
Ward Councillor(s) Consulted	N/A
Non-Key Decision	

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

Each Council is required by law to have an Independent Remuneration Panel which recommends the level of allowances for Councillors. The Panel for Redditch also makes recommendations to the other District Councils in Worcestershire. The Panel’s report is enclosed for consideration by the Executive Committee and ultimately by the Council.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to consider the report and recommendations and RECOMMEND to Council

2.1 whether or not to accept the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel for 2015-16;

2.2 having considered the Panel’s report and recommendations, whether or not changes are required to the Council’s scheme of allowances for Members.

3. KEY ISSUES

Financial Implications

3.1 If the Council was to accept the Panel’s recommendations in full, the budget for Members’ basic and special responsibility allowances for 2015-16 would be approx. £193,000. This would be an increase of £56,000 on the total for the same allowances in the current year.

Legal Implications

3.2 The Council is required to “have regard” to the recommendations of the Panel. However, it is not obliged to agree to them. It can choose to implement them in full or in part, or not to accept them.

- 3.3 The Council is also required to review its scheme of allowances for Councillors on an annual basis.

Service/Operational Implications

- 3.4 There are no direct service or operational implications arising from this report. Once the Council has agreed the allowances for 2015-16 Officers will update and publish the Members' Allowances Scheme as appropriate.

Customer/Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 3.5 None arising from this report.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

Payments to Councillors can be a high profile issue. The main risks are reputational. However, the Council is transparent about the decisions made on allowances. The Allowances scheme and sums paid to Councillors each year are published on the Council's website.

5. APPENDICES

Report and recommendations from the Independent Remuneration Panel for 2015-16.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Members Allowances Scheme – in the Council Constitution at Part 15 and on the website at:

<http://redditch.whub.org.uk/cms/council-and-democracy/councillors-and-committees/members-allowances-redditch.aspx>.

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