

## REVIEW OF MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

### Council– 18 February 2014

Report of Chief Officer – Legal and Governance

Chief Finance Officer

Status: For Decision

Also considered by: Governance Committee – 29 January 2014

Key Decision: No

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**This report supports the Key Aim of** Effective Use of Council Resources

**Portfolio Holder** Cllr. Fleming

**Contact Officer(s)** Christine Nuttall Ext. 7245

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**Working Group Recommendation to Governance Committee:** That special responsibility allowances be paid to vice-chairman of committees

**Governance Committee Recommendation to Council:** To be reported at the Council meeting on 18 February 2014.

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**Reason for recommendation:** Following changes to the Governance arrangements and a review of Members allowances, Council asked this Committee to review the allocation of special responsibility allowances.

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### Background

- 1 At the Council meeting on 1 October 2013 the Governance Committee was asked to review the allocation of special responsibility allowances and consider all options within the budget available.
- 2 This Committee considered the issue of allowances for Vice-Chairmen at the meeting on 5 November 2013, and agreed that the Vice-Chairman of the Development Control Committee had unique responsibilities and these should be recognised through a special responsibility allowance. It was further agreed that a Working Group be established to further review the allocation of special responsibility allowances.

- 3 The Working Group recommend that a special responsibility allowance should be paid to all vice-chairmen to reflect their share of the workload and level of responsibility.
- 4 The remit for any review of Members Allowances has always been on the basis that any new allowances scheme would have to be contained within budget.
- 5 The Working Group recommendation is for the allowances for Chairmen agreed by Council on 1 October 2013, now be 'top-sliced' by 20% and that amount be paid to the Vice Chairman. Details of the cash amounts are shown in Appendix A
- 6 The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances)(England) Regulations 2003, states that before an authority make or amends a Members' Allowance scheme, the authority shall have regard to the recommendations made in relation to it by the Independent Remuneration Panel. The Panel have been consulted on this proposal and they raised no issues and have stated that in future they will consider this allowance as part of their recommendations if supporting evidence of workload is provided.
- 7 The JIRP have recommended that Members should not receive more than one Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA) and the Working Group did not propose any changes to that recommendation.
- 8 This amendment to the scheme can be funded within the current budget.
- 9 It is further recommended that any revisions to the special responsibility allowances take effect from next Council meeting.

## **Key Implications**

### Legal

- 10 Section 20 of The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 requires each authority to establish an Independent Remuneration Panel.
- 11 Section 17 of the 2003 Regulations places a duty on the Council to publish as soon as reasonably practicable after making any amendments to the current Members' Allowance Scheme a notice in one or more newspapers circulating in its area. The Council must also ensure that copies of the Scheme are available for inspection by members of the public at the principal office of the Authority, at all reasonable hours.

### Financial

- 12 The financial implications of the JIRP recommendations are set out in the report and its appendices.

## Equality Impacts

Consideration of impacts under the Public Sector Equality Duty:		
Question	Answer	Explanation / Evidence
a. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper have potential to disadvantage or discriminate against different groups in the community?	No	The proposed decision does not have any adverse effect upon any protected group as identified in the legislation.
b. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper have the potential to promote equality of opportunity?	Yes	
c. What steps can be taken to mitigate, reduce, avoid or minimise the impacts identified above?		N/A

### **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Schedule of all Allowances

### **Background Papers**

[JIRP Review of Sevenoaks District Council Members Allowances – June 2013](#)

[Constitution - Appendix G - Members Allowances Scheme 2013/14](#)

**Mrs Christine Nuttall**  
**Chief Officer for Legal and Governance &**

**Adrian Rowbotham**  
**Chief Finance Officer**

## Appendix 1

### Members' Allowances Scheme (2013/14)

Description of Allowance	Allowance per Member Original	Proposed Allowances per Member/ Responsibility
	2013/14	2013/14 Revisions in shaded boxes
	(£)	(£)
Basic Allowance (all Members)	5,140	5,140
<b>Special Responsibility Allowances:</b>		
<b>Opposition Group Leaders:</b>		
Liberal Democrat (2 Members)	1,277	1,277
Labour (4 Members)	1,277	1,277
Cabinet Chairman (Council Leader)	15,422	15,422
Cabinet Members	6,426	6,426
Deputy Cabinet Members -	643	643
<b>Chairmen</b>		
Advisory Committees (x5) -	2,571	2,057
Audit - (no vice chair)	2,571	2,571
Development Control	3,856	3,085
Governance -	2,571	2,057
Health Liaison Board -	2,571	2,057
Licensing -	2,571	2,057
Sevenoaks Joint Transportation Board	2,571	2,057
Scrutiny		2,057
Standards	-	-
<b>Vice Chairmen</b>		
Advisory Committees (x5)	-	514
Development Control	-	771
Governance, Health Liaison Board, Licensing, Scrutiny, Standards, Joint Transportation Board		514
<b>Committee Members:</b>		
Development Control members	257	257
Licensing Committee members	129	129