

Item 7 (a) - Review of the Scheme for Members' Allowances

The attached report was considered by the Governance Committee, Council is asked to consider part (b), relevant minute extract below:

Governance Committee - 27 June 2017 (Minute 5)

The Chairman welcomed two members of the Joint Independent Remuneration Panel (JIRP), Gary Allen and Chris Oliver, to the meeting. The Chief Finance Officer introduced the covering report and then the JIRP presented their report which detailed their Members' Allowance review.

A Member raised the concern that allowances were not paid hourly and therefore Members that attended every meeting were being paid the same allowance as Members that rarely attended meetings. The subject was debated, but Members agreed that that it would have been difficult to have completed the report based on an hourly rate because of the time Members dedicated to their Wards and not just to meetings. Overall, the Members agreed that the report was fair.

The Chairman thanked Messrs. Allen and Oliver for attending and the Panel for a clear and detailed report.

Resolved: That

- a) the report be noted;
- b) it be recommended to Council that**
 - i) the revised Schedule of Recommended Members Allowances as detailed on page 19 and 20 of Appendix A to the report, be agreed;
 - ii) in future the allowances be updated in line with any increases in the remuneration of Council staff;
 - iii) the current travel expenses scheme based upon the HMRC approved rate, continue;
 - iv) the existing scheme for meal and subsistence allowances, which excludes tea allowance, continue;
 - v) the IT allowance not be paid to Councillors after the next election; and
 - vi) the recommendations take effect from April 2018.

- c) the Committee formally record its thanks to Gary Allen, Max Lewis and Chris Oliver for their work in preparing 'A Review of Council Members' Allowances for Sevenoaks District Council'.