

MEMBERS' ALLOWANCE SCHEME MONITORING 2017/2018

Audit Committee - 16 October 2018

Report of Head of Legal and Democratic Services

Status For Consideration

Key Decision No

Portfolio Holder Cllr. John Scholey

Contact Officer Martin Goodman, Ext. 7245

Recommendation to Audit Committee: that Members note the contents of this report.

Introduction and Background

- 1 Within the terms of reference of the Audit Committee, the committee is required 'to monitor the implementation of the Members' Allowance Scheme'.
- 2 The Governance Committee is required 'to receive the recommendation of the Joint Independent Remuneration Panel and make recommendations for changing the Members' Allowance Scheme to the Council and, if required, to the Joint Independent Remuneration Panel'. This process took place during 2017/18 and an updated scheme will be in place from May 2019.

Members' Allowance Scheme - 2017/18

- 3 Members' allowances for 2017/18 were made public during the summer and can be viewed online here:
https://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/downloads/download/32/councillor_allowance_and_expense_payments
- 4 Basic allowances were paid to all Members but one asked not to receive the full amount. It should be noted that allowances were paid to 55 Members as there was a by-election during the year.
- 5 Travel expenses were claimed by 28 out of 55 Members (51%).
- 6 The IT allowance was claimed by 41 out of 55 Members (75%).
- 7 Appendix G from the Constitution of Sevenoaks District Council containing the Members' Allowance Scheme (2017/18) is attached as this report's Appendix. It should be noted that the scheme in operation for 2018/19 has

been updated from this in line with the National Joint Council for Local Government Services pay award for the year.

- 8 All Members' expenses claims are checked by Democratic Services. In the event of any question of interpretation, the Chief Executive or the Monitoring Officer will decide. No issues were found during the year.

Key Implications

Financial

The cost of the Members' Allowance Scheme is contained within the approved budget.

Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement.

There are no legal implications for this report.

Equality Assessment

The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

Appendices 2017/2018 Members' Allowances Scheme.

Background Papers None.

Martin Goodman

Head of Legal and Democratic Services