

North Tyneside Council

Report to Council

Date: 21 January 2016

ITEM 5

Title: Report of the
Independent
Remuneration Panel

Portfolio: Elected Mayor

Cabinet Member: Mrs Norma Redfearn

Report from: Head of Law and Governance

Responsible Officer: Vivienne M. Geary, Head of Law and Governance
Tel: (0191) 643 5339

Wards affected: All

PART 1

1.1 Executive Summary:

This report requests the Council to give consideration to the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel in relation to the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2016/17.

The Council is required to have in place a scheme for Members' Allowances and is required to have regard to the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel when determining its Members' Allowance Scheme.

1.2 Recommendation:

It is recommended that Council (1) considers the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel;
(2) notes that the Panel has recommended that there be no change to the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2016/17; and,
(3) agrees a Scheme of Members' Allowances for 2016/17.

1.3 Forward Plan:

Twenty eight days notice of this report has been given and it first appeared on the Forward Plan that was published on 7 September 2015.

1.4 Council Plan and Policy Framework

This report has no direct relevance to the Authority's 2014/18 Our North Tyneside Plan priorities or to the Policy Framework.

1.5 Information:

1.5.1 Background

- 1.5.2 Under the Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 (as amended) the Authority is required to have regard to the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel when considering any changes to its Members' Allowances Scheme.
- 1.5.3 The Panel has previously carried out detailed research on Members' allowances which demonstrates that the Authority's allowances are significantly out of line with those nationally and regionally. It still believes that the current North Tyneside Members' Allowances Scheme does not recognise the commitment required to fulfil the various roles of a being councillor, nor does it provide sufficient recompense for undertaking those various roles.
- 1.5.4 In carrying out its review the Panel has noted that the majority of the neighbouring authorities have not increased their allowances over the past year.
- 1.5.5 The Panel therefore recommends that there be no change to the Members' Allowances Scheme for the 2016/17 Municipal Year and that further consideration be given to the level of the Special Responsibility Allowances as part of a future review of the Members' Allowances Scheme.

1.6 Decision options:

The following decision options are available for consideration by Council:

Option 1

Approve all or part of the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel in relation to the amendments to the Members' Allowances Scheme; or

Option 2

Refer the matter back to the Independent Remuneration Panel for further consideration of specific issues identified by Council; or

Option 3

Defer consideration of the matter to obtain appropriate advice on the implications of any alternative proposals.

1.7 Reasons for recommended option:

The Authority is required to have in place a Members' Allowances Scheme having had regard to the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel.

1.8 Appendices:

Appendix: Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel.

1.9 Contact officers:

Vivienne M. Geary, Head of Law and Governance, tel. (0191) 643 5339
Dave Parkin, Democratic Support Officer, Law and Governance, tel. (0191) 643 5316
Alison Campbell, Senior Business Partner, Finance Services, tel. (0191) 643 7038

1.10 Background information:

The following background papers/information have been used in the compilation of this report and are available at the office of the author:

- (1) North Tyneside Council Constitution
- (2) North Tyneside Members' Allowances Scheme
- (3) Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 (as amended).

PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING

2.1 Finance and other resources

The report recommends that there be no change to the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2016/17 and therefore the costs are included in the existing budget provision. If the Council made an alternative decision in relation to the level of allowances appropriate consideration would need to be taken in relation to the financial implications.

2.2 Legal

The Council is required to approve a Members' Allowances Scheme each year, following advice from the Independent Remuneration Panel, in accordance with the Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 (as amended).

2.3 Consultation/community engagement

2.3.1 Internal Consultation

The Elected Mayor and Deputy Mayor were consulted as part of the Independent Remuneration Panel's preparation of the report.

2.3.2 External Consultation/Engagement

There has been no external consultation or engagement on the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel.

2.4 Human rights

The proposals within this report do not themselves have any direct implications in respect of the Human Rights Act 1998.

2.5 Equalities and diversity

There are no direct equalities or diversity implications arising from this report.

2.6 Risk management

The risks associated with this report will be managed in accordance with the North Tyneside Council risk management process.

2.7 Crime and disorder

There are no crime and disorder implications associated with this report.

2.8 Environment and sustainability

There are no direct environment and sustainability implications arising from this report.

PART 3 - SIGN OFF

- Deputy Chief Executive
- Head(s) of Service
- Mayor/Cabinet Member(s)
- Chief Finance Officer
- Monitoring Officer
- Head of Corporate Strategy