

**MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES**

*To:* County Council

*Date:* 25th March 2014

*From:* Chief Executive

*Purpose:* To consider the report prepared by the Independent Remuneration Panel on Members' Allowances and to make a new scheme of allowances to reflect the changes that the Council made to its governance arrangements which will take effect from the Annual General Meeting in May.

*Recommendation:* It is recommended that Full Council:

- (a) considers the Panel's recommendations and determines whether to accept the recommendations as they stand or with amendments or alternatively to make a different scheme altogether.
- (b) confirm the date on which the new scheme will come into effect.
- (c) formally revoke the existing Members' Allowances Scheme with effect from that date.
- (d) authorise the Monitoring Officer to prepare a new scheme to reflect the outcome of the Council's deliberations and to take any consequential action arising therefrom.

<b><i>Officer contact:</i></b>	<b><i>Member contact</i></b>
Name: Quentin Baker	Name: N/A
Post: Monitoring Officer	Portfolio:
Email: <a href="mailto:quentin.baker@cambridgeshire.gov.uk">quentin.baker@cambridgeshire.gov.uk</a>	Email:
Tel: 01223 727961	Tel:

## **1. Background**

- 1.1 At its meeting on 11th December 2013, Full Council approved the new Constitution recommended by the Constitution and Ethics Committee in order to enable the conversion from the existing form of governance and to commence operating the new committee form of governance with effect from its Annual Meeting on 13 May 2014.
- 1.2 The changes to the Council's governance arrangements will have a considerable impact on the way in which the Council operates, on how decisions are taken and on how councillors carry out their roles. This has therefore necessitated the need to revise the current scheme of allowances to reflect the changes that the Council has made to its governance arrangements.
- 1.3 Local authorities are legally obliged to establish a scheme of allowances for their elected members. The regulations governing this set out a range of requirements in relation to the content of the scheme itself and to the process by which councils should follow when making their schemes of allowances.
- 1.4 One of the key requirements of the process is that the council must, before determining the content of its scheme of allowances, have considered the report of an Independent Remuneration Panel, established for this purpose. In accordance with the Council's constitution, the current Independent Remuneration Panel was appointed following a process agreed by the Standards Committee at a meeting on 11 January 2012.
- 1.5 Cambridgeshire County Council's Independent Remuneration Panel was asked to prepare a report in response to the changes that the Council has made to its governance arrangements following the election in May 2013. In preparing this report, the Independent Remuneration Panel have considered all aspects of Cambridgeshire County Council's scheme of allowances, including the structure of the scheme, the level of allowances paid and the circumstances in which allowances may be claimed.
- 1.6 The attached report has been prepared by the Independent Remuneration Panel.
- 1.7 Full Council is now required to make a new scheme of allowances having considered the attached recommendations.
- 1.8 It is open to Full Council to accept the recommendations of the panel in full, in part or to amend them entirely to create a different scheme altogether. However, Full Council is legally obliged to make a scheme.

<b>Source Documents</b>	<b>Location</b>
Report by the Cambridgeshire County Council Independent Remuneration Panel - An Independent Review of Members' Allowances	Paul Hanson Democratic Services Manager Democratic Services Law, Property and Governance Northamptonshire County Council Room 144 County Hall Northampton NN1 1DN 01604 366813