SUMMARY

1  This Report

1.1  This report presents for approval the Members’ Allowances Scheme for 2016/17.

2  Recommendation

2.1  It is recommended that Council approves:

2.1.1  The Members’ Allowances Scheme for 2016/17 as set out in Appendix 1.

2.2  It is recommended that Council notes that:

2.2.1  The Members’ Allowances for 2016/17 set out in the Scheme have been increased by 1%, in line with the proposed central government staff salary increases. Any increase would take effect from 1 April 2016 and on confirmation of the central government staff pay settlement.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO COUNCIL PRIORITIES

This report accords with the Council's Policy and Budget Framework and supports the development of an effective and efficient Council.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

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DETAIL/MAIN CONSIDERATIONS

3 Background

3.1 The legislative framework governing the payment of Members’ Allowances is set out in the Local Authorities (Members’ Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 ("the Members’ Allowances Regulations").

3.2 Under the provisions of the Members’ Allowances Regulations, the Council is required before the beginning of each financial year to make a Members’ Allowances Scheme and after making a scheme publish the scheme as soon as it is reasonably practicable.

3.3 The Members’ Allowances Scheme needs to make provision for Basic Allowances, Special Responsibility Allowances ("SRA’s"), Dependents’ Carers’ Allowances, Travelling and Subsistence Allowances and Co-optees’ Allowances.

3.4 The Members’ Allowances Regulations state that before the Council can make or amend a Members’ Allowances Scheme, it is required to have regard to recommendations made in relation to it by an Independent Remuneration Panel ("IRP"). In this regard, the IRP met in September and October 2014 and produced a report in December 2014.

3.5 The Council met on 26 March 2015 and agreed that Members Allowances for 2015/16 should be increased across the board by 1% in line with the inflation figure provided for in the budget.

3.6 At Council on 21 March 2013 it was resolved that from 2014/15 onwards, the allowances should be increased automatically in line with any staff salary increase and this arrangement was confirmed again on 12 December 2013.

4 Members’ Allowances for 2016/17

4.1.1 The Members’ Allowances for 2016/17 set out in the Scheme have been increased by 1%, in line with the proposed central government staff salary increases. It is therefore proposed to increase Members’ Allowances by 1% from 1 April 2016 on confirmation of the central government pay settlement.

4.2 The proposed 2016/17 scheme is attached at appendix 1. Administrative changes are highlighted in green.

5 Financial Implications

5.1 The cost of the Members’ Allowance scheme in 2015/16 is £579,400. This report recommends that member allowances are increased by 1% (rounded to nearest pound) in 2016/17 which is in line with the medium term financial strategy and equates to an additional cost of £5,800.

6 Legal Implications

6.1 Section 18 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 as amended by section 99 of the Local Government Act 2000 makes provision in relation to basic, special responsibility and dependants’ carers’ allowances for members of local authorities. The Local Authorities (Members’ Allowances) (England)
Regulations 2003, which have been made under these provisions provide that it is for each local authority to decide its own scheme and the amounts paid under that scheme.

6.1 There is a legal requirement to make and publish a Members’ Allowance Scheme each year.

7 **Risk Issues**

7.1 None identified.

8 **HR Issues**

8.1 None identified.

9 **Equalities**

9.1 None identified.