

CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT OF: Democratic Services Manager

TO: Civic Affairs Committee

18 /3/2015

WARDS: None directly affected

MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES-MUNICIPAL YEAR 2015/16 AND REVIEW

1 INTRODUCTION

The Committee is asked to consider whether the existing Members' Allowances Scheme be retained for 2015/16 and whether a review of the Scheme should be undertaken with recommendations ready for implementation in 2016/17.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- i) To recommend to Council (on 16 April 2015) that the existing Members' Allowances Scheme be continued for the 2015/16 Municipal Year (as appended).
- ii) To decide whether to review the Allowances Scheme in 2015/16 and if so, it being subject to a further report to committee in June 2015 detailing the terms of reference and scope for an Independent Remuneration Panel to work to.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 A Members' Allowances Scheme is agreed by the Council. If any changes are to be made to an existing scheme, it can only be done following consideration of the changes by an Independent Remuneration Panel.
- 3.2 This Council has chosen to agree its Allowance Scheme annually and has also agreed to keep the allowances and scheme at the level set in 2007/08. It is not known to officers if the continuation of a Scheme for so long without reviewing the levels of allowance has

proven to be an impediment to anyone standing for office or seeking re-election.

- 3.3 The Committee is asked whether it wishes to review the Scheme. If so, a report would be brought back to the committee in June to agree how this will be undertaken.

4. **IMPLICATIONS**

(a) **Financial Implications**

There is £252,780 in the 2015/16 budget allocated for Members' Allowances.

- (b) **Staffing Implications** – none.

(c) **Equal Opportunities Implications**

An equalities impact assessment was not undertaken as the proposal is for no change. The implications of continuing with the existing scheme are referred to in paragraph 3.

- (d) **Environmental Implications**- none

- (e) **Procurement**-none

- (f) **Consultation and communication** – there is a statutory requirement to publish in a local newspaper the allowances received by each Councillor in a municipal year. There is public interest in the level of allowances politicians receive at a national and local level.

- (g) **Community Safety**-none

BACKGROUND PAPERS: None

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