
MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME 2014/15

To: **Council – 10 July 2014**

Main Portfolio Area: **Corporate and Regulatory Services**

By: **Democratic Services Manager**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Summary: This report gives Members the feedback from the East Kent Joint Independent Remuneration Panel (EKJIRP) on the amendments to the 2014/15 Members' Allowances scheme.

For Decision

1.0 Introduction and Background

1.1 The Council is required to have regard to the recommendations of the EKJIRP in making a scheme of allowances. Amendments to 2014/15 Members Allowances Scheme were agreed by Council subject to approval by the EKJIRP at its meeting on the 15 May 2014.

2.0 East Kent Joint Independent Remuneration Panel Review of 2014/15 Members' Allowances Scheme

2.1 Following approval at Annual Council on 15 July 2014, the amended 2014/15 Members' Allowances scheme was reviewed by the EKJIRP at its meeting on 13 June 2014. The EKJIRP approved all of the changes to it.

2.2 As the Council is legally required to do, the scheme will be advertised in a local newspaper shortly.

3.0 Corporate Implications

3.1 Financial and VAT

3.1.1 As shown at the last meeting of Council there will be no direct financial implications as a result of the changes to mileage claims, as they have been developed on a cost-neutral basis.

3.2 Legal

3.2.1 The Council is required to have regard to the recommendations of EKJIRP in making a scheme of allowances.

3.3 Corporate

3.3.1 The level of allowances may be seen as both impacting on the public's perception of the Council and a factor in making public services as a Councillor attractive to a broad range of potential candidates.

3.4 Equalities

3.4.1 Assessing Relevance

3.4.2 There are no direct equalities implications to this report as although there are Councillors from the protected groups, the allowances scheme applies to all Councillors equally.

3.4.3 Although it does not directly relate to protected groups, the draft scheme contains the ability to pay a dependent carers allowance to Councillors. This contributes to aims 1 and 2 of the Equality Act as it removes barriers to Councillors standing who have relatives that may be in need of dependent care.

3.4.4 Equality Impact Assessment

3.4.5 N/A

4.0 Recommendation(s)

4.1 To note the comments of the East Kent Joint Independent Remuneration Panel on the amended 2014/15 Members' Allowances Scheme as adopted at Annual Council on 15 July 2014.

5.0 Decision Making Process

5.1 It is for Council to agree the Members' Allowances Scheme; however Council must have regard to the views of EKJIRP when making a scheme.

Contact Officer:	Glenn Back, Democratic Services Manager
Reporting to:	Paul Cook, Interim Director of Corporate Resources,

Annex List

None	
------	--

Background Papers

Title	Details of where to access copy
None	

Corporate Consultation Undertaken

Finance	Matthew Sanham, Finance Manager
Legal	Steven Boyle, Interim Legal Services Manager and Monitoring Officer