

1. **REPORT TITLE** **Member Allowances**
- Submitted by:** **Chief Executive**
- Portfolio:** People, policy and partnerships
- Wards affected:** All

Purpose of the Report

To enable the Council to make arrangements for an Independent Panel to be convened to recommend a new scheme of Member allowances to come into effect at the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2018.

Recommendations

- (i) That the resolution made by the Council on 11 July 2012 that “there be no panel until such time as it is required by law” be rescinded.
- (ii) That the Council requests the Chief Executive to make arrangements for an Independent Panel to be convened to review the scheme of Member Allowances and to make recommends in sufficient time for a new scheme of allowances to be considered by the Council before the next Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2017.

1. **Background**

At its meeting on 11 July 2012 the Council considered a report on Members’ Allowances. It made resolutions for the scheme of allowances for 2012/13 and it doing so also passed the following resolution:

“That there be no panel until such time as it is required by law”

This is reference to the Independent Panel which is required under the Local Authorities (Member Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 to be established to make recommendation on Member allowances.

2. **Review of Allowances**

At its meeting on 17 May 2017 in considering the scheme of Member allowances for 2017/18 comment was made by Members that the scheme of allowances should be reviewed for the new Council being created following the Borough elections in May 2018. Soundings have been taken with the Group Leaders and it considered that it would be timely for the scheme of allowances to be reviewed as the Council moves from 60 to 44 Members.

In order for a review of allowances to take place the resolution of 11 July 2012 needs to be rescinded as there is no legal requirement for the scheme of allowances to be reviewed at this time.

Further, it is a requirement under Local Authorities (Member Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 for the scheme of allowances to be reviewed by an Independent Panel and for this to make recommendations on a scheme of allowances to the Council. The Council therefore needs to request that arrangements be set in hand to convene an Independent Panel and for this to make recommendations to the Council in order that a new scheme of allowances can come into effect at the start of the new municipal year in May 2018.