

Blaby District Council
Independent Remuneration Panel

Date of Meeting 27 October 2015
Title of Report **Review of Members' Allowances Scheme**
Report Author Democratic Services & Governance Manager

1. What is this report about?

- 1.1 To seek recommendations from the Independent Remuneration Panel in relation to any changes required to the Members' Allowances Scheme.

2. Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 That the Independent Remuneration Panel considers what changes (if any) should be made to the Members' Allowances Scheme.

3. Reason for Decision(s) Recommended

- 3.1 It is appropriate for the Panel to consider whether or not changes should be made to the Members Allowances Scheme and recommend changes (if any) to Council.

4. Matters to consider

4.1 Background

This process is part of the annual review of the Members' Allowances Scheme. The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 require a Local Authority to take into account any recommendations of an Independent Panel when considering setting the member Allowances Scheme.

The Panel is required to consider whether any changes are required to the scheme in relation to the following:

1. The payment of a basic allowance to all Councillors
2. The payment of any special responsibility allowances
3. The payment of travel and subsistence expenses
4. The payment of Dependent Carer allowances
5. A co-optees allowance

As part of this process, all current elected members of Blaby District Council have been asked to submit responses to a questionnaire. The results and comments are fully provided and anonymised at appendix A.

Out of 39 Members, 22 have responded to the questionnaire. 22 responded to the question concerning Basic Allowances, 21 in relation to Special Responsibility Allowances, 19 in relation to the Planning Committee Allowance, and 18 in relation to Dependent Carer Allowance, Travel Allowance and Subsistence Allowance.

In addition the Conservative Group have prepared a paper for consideration by the Panel and this is attached at Appendix B.

Officers will be available at the meeting for any further questions members of the Panel may have including some comparator information from other Council's to assist in the process.

4.2 Proposal(s)

That the Independent Remuneration Panel, make recommendations to Council in relation to any amendments to the Members' Allowances Scheme

4.3 Relevant Consultations

None

4.4 Significant Issues

None

5. What will it cost and are there opportunities for savings?

- 5.1 Additional costs or savings will arise from any changes in the Scheme, these will be considered at the meeting of Council when the decision is taken to amend (or not) the Members' Allowances Scheme.

6. What are the risks and how can they be reduced?

- 6.1 None

7. Other options considered

- 7.1 The other options are for the Member Allowances Scheme to go directly to Council or for the Council not to consider the Scheme, both of these options are in breach of the 2003 Regulations

8. Other significant issues

- 8.1 In preparing this report, the author has considered issues related to Human Rights, Legal Matters, Human Resources, Equalities, Public Health Inequalities, and Climate Local and there are no areas of concern.

9. Appendix

- 9.1 Appendix A – Summary of responses to the Member Allowances Questionnaire

9.2 Appendix B – Paper from the Conservative Group

10. Background paper(s)

The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances)(England) Regulations 2003

The current Members' Allowances Scheme

11. Report author's contact details

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