

Central Bedfordshire Council

COUNCIL

Thursday, 20 April 2017

Allowance paid to Police and Crime Panel Members

Report of:

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Purpose of this report

1. To consider a request from Bedford Borough Council, as the administering authority for the Police and Crime Panel, to increase the allowance paid to Police and Crime Panel Members by 1% for the financial year 2017/18.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Council is asked to agree to the proposed increase in allowance for Police and Crime Panel Members by 1% as set out in paragraph 4 below.

Overview and Scrutiny Comments/Recommendations

2. This matter has not been considered by the overview and scrutiny function.

Introduction

3. Bedford Borough Council administers the Police and Crime Panel on behalf of the three participating authorities, Bedford Borough, Luton and Central Bedfordshire Councils.
4. The report attached at Appendix A sets out the current and proposed position for allowances for Police and Crime Panel Members. The proposed increase of 1% would result in the following:

	Current	Revised for 2017/18
a. Chairman	£5,050	£5,100
b. Vice Chairman	£500	£505
c. Independent Members	£750	£758

Position so far

5. Each participating council is required to agree when there is a proposed change to the amount of allowances.
6. Bedford Borough Council formally agreed the increase on 20 December 2016. Central Bedfordshire Council is therefore asked to formally agree the proposals.

Context

7. Central Bedfordshire Council has not increased the special responsibility allowances for Council Members for the year 2017/18. Accordingly, the budget calculations have not made provision for any increase in allowances, neither for Central Bedfordshire Council members nor for members of the Police and Crime Panel.

Council Priorities

8. The Police and Crime Panel publicly scrutinises the Police and Crime Commissioner and supports the effective exercise of the Police and Crime Commissioner's functions. As such, it contributes to Central Bedfordshire Council's priorities of:
 - a. Protecting the vulnerable and improving wellbeing
 - b. Creating stronger communities
 - c. Enhancing Central Bedfordshire.

Corporate Implications:

Legal Implications

9. The increase in allowances has been considered by Bedford Borough Council's Independent Remuneration Panel and therefore has been taken through the appropriate governance process.

Financial and Risk Implications

10. While the proposals represent an increase in allowances, this could be managed through existing budgets.

Equalities Implications

11. Public Authorities must ensure that decisions are made in a way which minimises unfairness, and without a disproportionately negative effect on people from different ethnic groups, disabled people, women and men. It is important that Councillors are aware of this duty before they take a decision.
12. When decisions are made, decision makers must have the relevant data, including the results of equality impact assessment, and of consultation and involvement, to ensure they reach an informed decision. No equality impact assessments have been carried out on this matter.
13. The Police and Crime Panel Members are drawn proportionately from each of the three participating local authorities and therefore from the communities which the Panel serves.

Implications for Work Programming

14. There are no implications for work programming arising from this report.

Conclusion and next Steps

15. The enhanced allowances would be paid to Panel Members from the relevant participating authority.

Appendices

The following Appendix is attached:

16. Appendix A - Report to Bedford Borough Council's Independent Remuneration Panel: Request for review of payment of allowances to Police and Crime Panel Members from 1 April 2017

Background Papers

17. The following background papers, not previously available to the public, were taken into account and are available on the Council's website: None