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**Meeting:** Audit Committee

**Date:** 27 July 2009

**Subject:** **Members' Allowances – Payments made by Legacy Authorities for the year ending 31 March 2009**

**Report of:** Director of Corporate Services

**Summary:** The report provides information as to the Payments made by Legacy Authorities under their respective Schemes of Members' Allowances for the year ending 31 March 2009 together with the allowances paid by Central Bedfordshire Shadow Council.

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Contact Officer: Stephen Cooke, Electoral/Members' Services Manager

Public/Exempt: Public

Wards Affected: All

Function of: Council

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**that the allowances paid by the legacy authorities to Central Bedfordshire Council, together with those paid by the Shadow Council, under their approved Schemes of Members' Allowances, be noted.**

**Members' Allowances - Payments Made for the Year Ending 31 March 2009.**

1. The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 places a duty on local authorities to make arrangements for the publication each year of the total sum paid under a Scheme to each Member of the Council in respect of :
  - (a) basic allowance;
  - (b) special responsibility allowance;
  - (c) dependants' carers' allowance;
  - (d) travelling and subsistence allowance; and
  - (e) co-optees' allowance.
  
2. This year is unique in that the former districts of Mid Bedfordshire and South Bedfordshire as well as Bedfordshire County Council were wound up and dissolved on 31 March. Central Bedfordshire Council must assume responsibility for the publication of the payments made to the Members of the legacy authorities together with the payments made to the Members of the Shadow authority for the year ending 31 March 2009.

## Schemes of Members' Allowances

- Each of the legacy authorities, and Central Bedfordshire Shadow Council, adopted a Scheme of Members' Allowances in accordance with the provisions of The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003. With the exception of the Scheme of Allowances adopted by Central Bedfordshire Shadow Council, all of the Schemes included provision for the payment of all of the allowances mentioned in paragraph 1 (a) to (e) above. As Members of the Central Bedfordshire Shadow Council were already Members of one or more of the legacy authorities, the Scheme adopted by the Shadow Council, did not include the payment of a basic allowance but included all of the other allowances as mentioned in paragraphs 1 (b) to (e) above.

## Details of the Payments Made

- Details of the payments made by the legacy authorities and Central Bedfordshire Shadow Council are included in the Appendices listed below. The figures are reported in the format that would have been used by each of the legacy authorities.

Appendix A	Payments made in respect of the Members of Bedfordshire County Council.
Appendix B	Payments made in respect of the Members of Mid Bedfordshire District Council.
Appendix C	Payments made in respect of the Members of South Bedfordshire District Council.
Appendix D	Payments made in respect of the Members of Central Bedfordshire Shadow Council.

## CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

### Council Priorities:

None directly

### Financial:

The payment of Members' Allowances is in accordance with an adopted Scheme, for which budget provision was made by each of the legacy authorities following adoption of their respective Scheme of Members' Allowances.

### Legal:

The Bedfordshire (Structural Changes) Order 2008 and The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003

### Risk Management:

None

**Staffing (including Trades Unions):**

None

**Equalities/Human Rights:**

All of the Schemes of Members' Allowances included a Dependants' Carers' Allowance to provide equal opportunity.

**Community Safety:**

None

**Sustainability:**

The provision of a fair scheme of Members' Allowances is an essential part of the democratic process.