

# Central Bedfordshire Council

Council

17 January 2019

## Independent Remuneration Panel

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**Report of:** Cllr Richard Wenham, Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Corporate Resources  
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**Responsible Director(s):** Charles Warboys, Director of Resources,  
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**This report relates to a decision that is Non-Key**

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### Purpose of this report

This report sets out the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) relating to the Scheme of Allowances for Members for 2019/20 following its meetings on 20 February 2017, 30 October 2017 and 30 October 2018.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

Council is asked to:

- 1. approve the existing Scheme of Allowances for Central Bedfordshire as recommended by the IRP at Appendix C for a period up to 12 months and to amend Part 6A of the Council's Constitution accordingly.**

### Overview and Scrutiny Comments/Recommendations

1. These matters were not referred to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee as the matter is a function of Council.

### Background

2. The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 require that a local authority may not adopt or amend a scheme of Members' Allowances without first having regard to recommendations made to it by an Independent Remuneration Panel.

3. The current Scheme of Members' Allowances expires on 31 March 2019.

## **Report and Recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel**

4. The Panel met on 30 October 2018 to carry out a review of the current Scheme of Allowances for Members which was approved by Council 17 November 2016. A note of the IRP's meeting is attached as Appendix C together with the notes of two interim meetings that were carried out on 20 February 2017 and 30 October 2017; shown at Appendices A and B respectively.
5. The Panel noted the request from the Leader of Council to retain the existing scheme until after the 2019 elections. Thus, affording the new Members the opportunity to comment on any revised scheme that the IRP may recommend.

## **Council Priorities**

6. The effectiveness of an Independent Remuneration Panel contributes to the Council priorities of 'creating stronger communities' and a 'more efficient and responsive Council'.

## **Corporate Implications**

## **Legal Implications**

7. As stated at paragraph 2, the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 (as amended), contain the statutory provisions for members allowances. There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

## **Financial and Risk Implications**

8. As the Panel is recommending no change to the Allowances Scheme there are no financial implications at this stage.

## **Equalities Implications**

9. Central Bedfordshire Council has a statutory duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and foster good relations in respect of nine protected characteristics; age disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
10. An Independent Remuneration Panel is necessary in relation to the provision of a fair scheme of Members' Allowances which is essential to the democratic process in ensuring an equal opportunity to all to become a Councillor.
11. The Scheme of Members' Allowances includes allowances for Dependants' Carers' to provide equality for any Member with caring responsibilities.

## **Conclusion and next Steps**

12. The extension of the existing scheme would accord with the IRP's recommendations from the two-interim reviews held in 2017.
13. Moreover, a comprehensive review of the whole scheme, in the Summer of 2019, with more up to date information from the new Members in relation to the time involved in carrying out the role together with interviews to selected Executive Members will provide a more accurate analysis for the Panel to consider.

## **Appendices**

**Appendix A: Notes of IRP meeting held 20 February 2017**

**Appendix B: Notes of IRP meeting held 30 October 2017**

**Appendix C: Notes of IRP meeting held 30 October 2018**

## **Background Papers**

None

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