

REPORT TO: Council
DATE: 6 February 2019
REPORTING OFFICER: Chief Executive
SUBJECT: Members' Allowance Scheme – Tri-annual Review
WARDS: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To advise Council of the arrangements for a review to be conducted of the Independent Members' Allowances Scheme.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That Council note the process for review as set out in the report.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Under the Local Authority's (Members' Allowances) Regulations 2003 the Scheme of Members' Allowances, which was approved in December 2015, effective from 1 April 2016, is due for review. It must be reviewed tri-annually.

3.2 In consultation with the Leader, the Chief Executive has invited three independent and respected private sector representatives to sit as an Independent Panel (the Panel) to review the Council's Scheme of Members' Allowances and to make recommendations to the Council with regard to the matters to be included in the scheme. The Panel members were identified as having private sector experience and also a strong understanding of the public sector, having worked closely with the public sector on numerous projects and partnerships. All three are independent of the Council.

The Panel consists of the following:-

Rachael Owen – Chief Executive, Halton Chamber

John Downes – MD, Langtree

John Lewis – MD, SOG Ltd

4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 The Panel will be provided with, and appraised of, the Council's current scheme of allowances. This recognises the time and commitment of all Councillors as well as incidental costs incurred such as use of their vehicles, homes, internet and telephone for Council business.

- 4.2 To enable the Panel to consider the appropriateness of the existing scheme, details of neighbouring authority schemes have been collated and will be made available to the Panel. This information is available on request.
- 4.3 The Panel will invite the Leaders of the three political groups on the Council to meet with them and share with them their thoughts on the current Members' Allowance Scheme and any changes they would wish to see.
- 4.4 The Panel will also invite all Members to share with them any thoughts they have on the current allowance scheme and any changes they would wish to see.
- 4.5 The Panel will be advised by the Chief Executive and the Council Solicitor and the Council Finance Officer on matters relating to the work of Elected Members, the law and other matters relating to Members Allowances.

5.0 PANEL FINDINGS

- 5.1 The findings of the Panel will be reported to the meeting of Council on 6 March 2019.

6.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

Current Members' Allowance Scheme

Current Members' Allowance Schemes for neighbouring local authorities.