



OFFICER REPORT TO COUNCIL

REVIEW OF MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES FOR 2018-19 – REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

KEY ISSUE/DECISION:

County Council is invited to consider the Independent Remuneration Panel's report on the review of Members' Allowances for 2018-19 and the Panel's resulting recommendations.

BACKGROUND:

1. At its meeting in October 2017, the County Council considered the Independent Remuneration Panel's report on Members' Allowances. The Council requested that the Panel review the allowance for the Lead Member for Scrutiny of the Police and Crime Commissioner, in addition to reviewing the Special Responsibility Allowance for the members of Adoption & Fostering Panels, for the vice-chairmen of select and regulatory committees against the benchmark of the 27 other county councils, and the Joint/Local Committee vice-chairman role.
2. The Panel has now completed its review and has made recommendations on existing allowances and on the specific areas requested by Council, as set out in paragraph 1 above.
3. The Panel's report is attached at Annex A. For ease of reference, the recommendations within the report are set out below.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL:

1. Basic Allowance

That the Basic Allowance is increased for 2018-19 by a percentage equal to the average percentage increase received by officers in 2018-19, with effect from the AGM. (Paragraph 3.3).

2. Special Responsibility Allowances

That all Special Responsibility Allowances are increased for 2018-19 on the same basis that the Basic Allowance is increased. (Paragraph 3.5).

3. Scrutiny of Police and Crime Commissioner

That the Special Responsibility Allowance for scrutiny of the Police and Crime Commissioner is abolished, and the concept of a 'Lead Member' abandoned. In its place, the IRP recommends that the County Council uses its powers under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 to introduce a scheme of allowances for the scrutiny of the Police and Crime Commissioner. (Paragraph 4.19).

4. Fostering and Adoption Panels

That the Special Responsibility Allowance for sitting on Fostering and Adoption Panels is changed to £100 per session attended plus travelling expenses. (Paragraph 5.16).

5. Vice-Chairmen

That Special Responsibility Allowances for Vice-Chairs be removed (Paragraph 6.6).

Lead/Contact Officers:

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Sources/background papers: County Council minutes, 10 October 2017.
