

MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

From: Interim Assistant Director Law and Governance	Report Number: C/95/16
To: Council	Date of meeting: 21 November 2016

RECOMMENDATION FROM THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To consider a recommendation from the Independent Remuneration Panel in relation to the Special Responsibility Allowance for the Member with Special Responsibility role.
- 1.2 To enable the Monitoring Officer to make necessary amendments to the Members Allowances Scheme following approval of the recommendation.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Council considers whether it wishes to adopt the recommendation of the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) as set out below:-
 - a) That the Special Responsibility Allowance for the Member with Special Responsibility role be set at 0.75 (£3000) of the current basic allowance .
- 2.2 That the revised Special Responsibility Allowance will take effect from the date of creation of the new role (April 2016).
- 2.3 That a revised Members Allowances Scheme incorporating the recommendation of the IRP as adopted by the Council under recommendation 2.1 above be prepared by the Monitoring Officer. Further, that the Monitoring Officer be authorised to make any typographical and other minor / consequential amendments prior to publication of the final document.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 The annual cost estimate for implementing the proposed MSR special responsibility allowance will be £15000, which will create a budget pressure in 2016/17. This cost can then be built into the relevant budget for 2017/18.
- 3.2 A one-off cost of approximately £1300 has been incurred for expenses associated with the IRP process, for which there is budgetary provision.

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 The Panel was convened under The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003. These regulations, arising out of the Local Government Act 2000, require all local authorities to maintain an independent remuneration panel to review and provide advice on the Council's Members Allowances.

- 4.2 Each local authority may make provision in its scheme for the payment of special responsibility allowances for those councillors who have significant responsibilities. The panel has to identify the special responsibilities for which the allowance is to be paid, and the amounts of allowance to be paid for each such responsibility.

5. Risk Management

- 5.1 This report is most closely linked with the Council's Corporate / Significant Business Risk No.5C *Failure to develop clear governance arrangements that enable the right decisions to be taken that are appropriate for the environment that we are operating in*. Key risks are set out below:

Risk Description	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation Measures
Insufficient capacity in the administration group leading to an inability to hold officers to account for the delivery of the strategic priorities.	2	3	Approval of the Special Responsibility Allowance for the Member with Special Responsibility role confirms the relative value of the role in the administration group governance structure.

6. Consultations

- 6.1 The panel carried out a consultation exercise with administration group councillors and senior officers to inform and evidence their recommendation.

7. Equality Analysis

- 7.1 None in relation to the change in the scheme of allowances as the proposal is for a generic single allowance for all Member with Special Responsibility roles.

8. Shared Service / Partnership Implications

- 8.1 This review has been commissioned for the Mid Suffolk Member with Special Responsibility role.

9. Links to Joint Strategic Plan

- 9.1 This decision will support the "Strengthened and clear governance to enable delivery" element of overarching **Enabled and Efficient Organisation** priority for the council

10. Key Information

- 10.1 Council appointed a pool of 5 people to form an Independent Remuneration Panel at the meeting on 22 September 2016.
- 10.2 Following a request from the Leader of the Council, the Monitoring Officer contacted panel members and provided them with a brief to carry out a short focused review of the Special Responsibility Allowance, for the newly created Member with Special Responsibility role.
- 10.3 A panel was formed of three members under the Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 .The panel's report and recommendation is attached at Appendix A.

11. Appendices

Title	Location
(a) Independent Remuneration Panel Report	Attached
(b) Appendix to Independent Remuneration Panel Report(Summary of scoring matrix)	Attached

12. Background Documents

- 12.1 Existing Mid Suffolk District Council Member Allowances Scheme .
<http://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/assets/UploadsMSDC/Organisation/Democratic-Services/Constitution/Revised-2015/Part-6.pdf>
- 12.2 Report to Council 22 September 2016, Appointment of the Independent Remuneration Panel.
<http://apps.midsuffolk.gov.uk/CMISWebPublic/Binary.ashx?Document=15137>

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