

Council

21 February 2017



Independent Remuneration Panel: Annual Report 2017/18

Relevant Wards

All Wards

Portfolio Holder

Cllr P Grove

Head of Service

Head of Strategy, Democratic and Customer Services – Fiona Narburgh

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(If you have any queries or questions about the content of this report, please speak to the portfolio holder or contact officer in advance of the meeting.)

Policy and Governance Manager - Matthew Box

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1. Purpose and Summary

1.1 To approve the recommendations in respect of councillors' allowances for 2017/18 (Appendix A)

2. Recommendations

Council approve the following allowances for 2017/18:

- (i) That the Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances are as set out in Column E of Appendix 1 of the Independent Remuneration Panel's report.
- (ii) That travel allowances for 2017-18 continue to be paid in accordance with the HMRC mileage allowance.
- (iii) That subsistence allowances for 2017-18 remain unchanged.
- (iv) That the Dependent Carer's Allowance remains unchanged.

- (v) **That for Parish Councils in the District, if travel and subsistence is paid, the Panel recommends that it is paid in accordance with the rates paid by Malvern Hills District Council and in accordance with the relevant Regulations.**

3. Background

- 3.1 The Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) has been appointed by the Council to carry out reviews of the allowances paid to Councillors, as required by the Local Government Act 2000 and subsequent legislation. The Panel has carried out its work in accordance with the legislation and statutory guidance.
- 3.2 The law requires the Council to “have regard” to the recommendations of the Independent Panel and last year the Council rejected the 1% increase recommended by the panel. Council also agreed that future increases would be capped at a maximum of either the Panel recommendation or the staff pay award (whichever is lower). The recommendations within this report reflect Councils wishes last year and so deviate from the recommendations received from the IRP as shown in Appendix 1.
- 3.3 The Panel has stressed that its recommendations are based on thorough research and benchmarking. It has presented what it considers to be an appropriate set of allowances to reflect the roles carried out by the Councillors. The purpose of allowances is to enable people from all walks of life to become involved in local politics if they choose.

4. Implications and Impact:

How does it meet Council priorities?

Not applicable

What are the financial / resource implications?

It is recommended that member allowances rise by 1% on the 2016/17 recommendation

What are the Risks?

Potential for adverse publicity and reputational damage

5. Is a Diversity Impact Assessment Required?

5.1 No

Appendices

Appendix A – IRP Annual Report and Recommendations for 2017/18

Background Papers

None