

Title of meeting: Governance & Audit & Standards Committee –
16 January 2013

Council – 22 January 2013

Subject: Members’ Allowances Review 2012
Cover Report

Report by: Chief Executive Portsmouth City Council

Wards Affected n/a

Key Decision No

Full Council Decision Yes

1. Purpose of report

The purpose of the report is to present the independent report and recommendations produced by the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) 2012, chaired by Professor John Craven for consideration and determination at Full Council.

2. Recommendations

To the Governance, Audit and Standards Committee

That Governance & Audit & Standards Committee confirms that it is satisfied with the way the Independent Panel undertook the review

To the City Council

A. That the City Council considers and decides upon the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel as set out in the Panel’s report (attached as appendix 1).

Note – Having fully considered the Panel’s report, the Council may choose to accept, reject or amend any or all of the recommendations or simply decide not to implement the Panel’s recommendations and retain the existing members allowance scheme and rates (and the ongoing Standing Panel arrangements), with minor refinement to reflect the establishment of the Health and Wellbeing Board and the subsuming of certain of the Standards Committee functions within the Governance and Audit Committee to form the Governance, Audit and Standards Committee, with the remuneration of all the respective Regulatory Chairs being the same as that currently prescribed within the existing scheme.

- B. that depending on the outcome of A, above, adequate funding be allocated in the 2013/14 budget and thereafter**
- C. that the City Council's Constitution be amended as applicable and appropriate**
- D. that Members thank the Independent Remuneration Panel for their work in reviewing the Members Allowance Scheme and producing the 2012 report.**

3. Background

Under the Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003, Portsmouth City Council is required to have an Independent Remuneration Panel to review the Members' Allowances Scheme. Where an Authority has regard to an index for the adjustment of allowance as is the case with this Authority where the scheme is linked with any annual adjustment which the officers receive (there has been a single increase of 1% since the last review reported in early 2009) it must further review the scheme within a four year period.

In accordance with recommended practices, an Independent Remuneration Panel was consequently formed to review the Portsmouth City Council Members' Allowances, as set out in the Constitution.

The 2012 Independent Remuneration Panel comprised representatives from the local Business, Public, Voluntary and Community sectors as set out below:

- Professor John Craven, Vice Chancellor - Portsmouth University (Chair);
- Mark Waldron, - Editor of The News, Portsmouth;
- Ursula Ward, Chief Executive – Portsmouth Hospital NHS Trust;
- Sue Dovey, Chief Executive - Community Action Hampshire;
- Revd Canon David Hopgood, St John's RC Cathedral;
- Walter Cha, Managing Director – Blake Laphorn.

4. Equality Impact Assessment

An equality impact assessment is not required as the recommendations do not have a negative impact on any of the protected characteristics as described in the Equality Act 2010.

5. City Solicitor Comments

Legal comments are embodied within this report. In deciding the appropriate level of remuneration which should be awarded to Councillors the Council is required to have regard to the findings of the Independent Remuneration Panel contained in the attached report.

6. Head of Finance's Comments

As detailed in appendix 3.

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Report by the Independent Remuneration Panel

Appendix 2a - Revised Members' Allowances Scheme (taking into account all recommendations)

Appendix 2b – Existing Members' Allowances Scheme

Appendix 3 – Financial Implications of the Panel's recommendations for 2013/14 produced by Financial Services

Background Papers –

**South East Employers – Survey of Members Allowances – Unitary
Collation of Councillors Survey Responses**

