



**Title of meeting:** Governance & Audit & Standards Committee – 13 March 2014  
Council – 18 March 2014

**Subject:** Proposed Minor Revisions to Members' Allowance Scheme

**Report by:** City Solicitor Portsmouth City Council

**Wards Affected** n/a

**Key Decision** No

**Full Council Decision** Yes

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**1. Purpose of report**

The purpose of the report is to present the independent report and recommendations produced by the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) 2014, chaired by Professor John Craven

- (1) For the Governance and Audit and Standards Committee to consider whether it is satisfied with the way the Independent Remuneration Panel undertook the review and
- (2) For consideration and determination at Full Council.

**2. Recommendations**

**To the Governance and Audit and Standards Committee**

**That Governance and Audit and Standards Committee confirms that it is satisfied with the way the Independent Remuneration 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 either or both of the recommendations or simply decide not to implement the Panel’s recommendations and retain the existing members allowance scheme.**

**B. that the City Council’s Constitution be amended as applicable and appropriate**

**C. that Members thank the Independent Remuneration Panel for their work in reviewing elements of the Members Allowance Scheme.**

**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. This last took place just over a year ago.

At that time it was agreed that the Independent Remuneration Panel should be kept in place as a standing panel whose members can consider issues that arise before the next review. Under this arrangement the panel has been asked to review two elements of the scheme namely to enable (a) provision to be made for the inclusion of an interest free Bus loan scheme on the same basis as the Officers Scheme (b) changes to be made to the Dependent Carers allowance so that it is more flexible and is similar to the Local Government Association's Scheme which is based on an hourly rate rather than a fixed total annual limit.

The 2014 Independent Remuneration Panel comprised the following members as set out below:

- Professor John Craven, former 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;
- Walter Cha, Managing Director - Blake Laphorn

The business of the Panel was conducted via E-mail.

The Panel's membership will be reviewed prior to the next full review in accordance with the decision of the Governance and Audit and Standards Committee when it considered the last review.

**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.

**6. Head of Finance's Comments**

There is no financial implication arising from extending the interest free bus loan arrangement to members. Any additional costs arising from changes to the Carer's allowance for members will be met from existing budget provision.

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Signed by:

**Appendices:**

**Appendix 1 – Report by the Independent Remuneration Panel**

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/  
rejected by ..... on .....

.....  
Signed by: