

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

INFORMATION

Agenda Item No 20

meeting date: 28 OCTOBER 2014
title: REVIEW OF MEMBERS ALLOWANCE SCHEME
submitted by: DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES
principal author: JANE PEARSON

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To inform members of the requirement to review our members' allowance scheme
- 1.2 To inform members of the setting up of an independent panel to carry out the review.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) 2003 require the Council to establish a scheme of members' allowances in accordance with these regulations.
- 2.2 The Council is required to agree and publicise its members' allowance scheme each year and have an independent review at least every 4 years. You may recall the last review commenced in November 2010 and was completed in time for the 2011/12 municipal year.
- 2.3 The Council, in revising the existing scheme, must have regard to the recommendations made by the panel.

3 REVIEW OF MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME FOR 2015/16

- 3.1 We are now due to commence our review in time for the 2015/16 municipal year and therefore need to appoint an independent panel.

Appointment of Panel

- 3.2 The Independent Panel in 2011 was;

- David Morris (ex Chief Executive)
- Liz McQue (Chief Executive of North West Employers Organisation)
- Rev Andy Froud (St Mary's Church Clitheroe)
- Ian Lloyd (Clitheroe Chamber of Trade)

Advised by:
Marshal Scott, Diane Rice and myself

- 3.3 I intend to approach the same individuals to see if they are available to carry out this review.

Process

- 3.4 It is expected the panel will meet a number of times and interview a number of existing members regarding various aspects of the current scheme.
- 3.5 The outcome of their review will be reported early in the new municipal year, probably June 2015. Any recommendations will need to be considered by you and ultimately approved by Full Council.
- 3.6 In the past the new scheme of members' allowances has been backdated to the beginning of the new municipal year. The current scheme of allowances would therefore remain in force until the new scheme is approved by Council in 2015/16.

Publicity

- 3.7 As soon as reasonably practicable after receiving the Independent Remuneration Panel's report the Council must make it available for public inspection. A notice must be publicised in the local press describing the main features of the panel's recommendations and specifying the amounts of each allowance. The notice must also state that copies of the Panel's report are available for public inspection.
- 3.8 Once the Council has approved the Scheme for Members' Allowances it must make arrangements for its publication by:-
- ensuring that copies of the scheme are available for public inspection; and
 - publishing a notice in the local press describing the main features of the scheme and specifying the amounts payable in respect of each allowance mentioned in the scheme.
- 3.9 There should be an indication of any differences from the recommendations in the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel.
- 3.10 The Council is also required to publish the amount of allowances paid to each Member as soon as practicable at the end of each financial year
- 4 CONCLUSION
- 4.1 We intend to appoint an independent panel to commence the review of our members' allowance scheme in time for the 2015/16 municipal year.

DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES

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16 October 2014