

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

DECISION

Agenda Item No 7

meeting date: 24 MARCH 2015
title: MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME UPDATE
submitted by: DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES
principal author: JANE PEARSON

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To update members with progress to date with the independent review of the members' allowances scheme and to agree the current members' allowances scheme for 2014/15 continues until the outcome of the review by the independent panel is considered.

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 Normally at this time the Council approves a scheme of Members Allowances for the forthcoming financial year. However as you will be aware, as is required under the regulations, we have recently set up an independent panel to carry out a review of allowances which will come into effect from the new municipal year.

3 REVIEW OF MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

- 3.1 The Independent Panel consists of;

- David Morris (Ex Chief Executive)
- Keith Power (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

- 3.2 To date the panel have met a number of times, interviewed several councillors and have sent questionnaires to all members, the response to which they are considering.
- 3.3 As reported previously, the outcome of their review will be reported to your meeting in June. Any recommendations will need to be considered by yourselves and ultimately approved by Full Council in July. In the past the new scheme of members' allowances has been backdated to the beginning of the new municipal year.
- 3.4 It would be practicable therefore for the current scheme of allowances to remain in force until the new scheme is approved by Council.
- 3.5 Following receipt of the Independent Panel's report I would suggest a small working group of members be formed to consider the matter further.

4 RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE

- 4.1 Agree that the current scheme of Members' Allowances for 2014/15 is extended pending the outcome of the review of the independent panel.
- 4.2 Appoint a working group to consider the Independent Panel's report on Members' Allowances.

DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES

PF20-15/JP/AC
10 March 2015