

**Meeting of the Full Council
Meeting to be held on 27 February 2014**

Report submitted by: The Interim Chief Executive

Part A

Electoral Division affected:
All

Members' Allowance Scheme 2014/15
(Appendix A refers)

Contact for further information:
Chris Mather, (01772) 533559, Office of the Chief Executive,
Chris.mather@lancashire.gov.uk

Executive Summary

This reports sets out the proposed Members' Allowance Scheme for 2014/15.

Recommendation

The Full Council is asked to approve the 2014/15 Members' Allowance Scheme, as presented at Appendix A.

Background and Advice

The County Council is required to approve its Members' Allowance Scheme before the beginning of each financial year.

The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 require the County Council to have regard to the recommendations of its Independent Remuneration Panel before making or amending the Members' Allowance Scheme.

A meeting of the Panel to consider the Members' Allowance Scheme and make recommendations on any changes to the Full Council would normally take place prior to this meeting. However, the 2003 Regulations provide that "A scheme may make provision for an annual adjustment of allowances by reference to such an index as may be specified by the County Council and where the only change made to a scheme in any year is that effected by such an annual adjustment in accordance with such an index the scheme shall be deemed not to have been amended". The fact that the existing Members' Allowance Scheme provides for an annual adjustment of allowances in accordance with specified indices (as shown below) and given that no other changes are proposed, the Full Council can approve a Scheme for 2014/15 without a meeting of the Panel having to be convened.

	Allowance	Index
1	Basic allowance, Special Responsibility Allowance and Carers/dependents allowance	Annual uprating on 1 April. This uprating shall equate to the average annual percentage increase in employees' pay under the National Joint Council for Local Government Services pay structure.
2	Overnight Accommodation, Travel Abroad and Subsistence allowances	To be increased annually with effect from 1 April in every year in line with the Retail Price Index (All Items) published in November of the preceding year.
3	Motor car, motor cycle, and bicycle travelling allowances	To be revised annually with effect from 1 April in every year in accordance with the maximum allowance for Income Tax purposes as determined by HM Revenue and Customs.

Attached at Appendix A is the proposed Members' Allowance Scheme for 2014/15. The Full Council will note that the allowances mentioned at 1 and 3 above have not been uprated as the 2014/15 employee pay settlement has not yet been agreed and the HMRC rates have not changed from 2013/14. The allowances mentioned at 2 above have been increased by the November 2013 Retail Price Index of 2.6%.

Consultations

N/A

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

No significant risks have been identified.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Directorate/Tel
-------	------	-------------------------

N/A

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A