

**Meeting of the Full Council
Meeting to be held on 26 February 2015**

Report submitted by: The Chief Executive

Part A

Electoral Division affected:
All

Members' Allowance Scheme 2015/16

(Appendix A refers)

Contact for further information:

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Executive Summary

This reports sets out the proposed Members' Allowance Scheme for 2015/16.

Recommendation

The Full Council is asked to approve the 2015/16 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 2015/16 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 2015/16. The Full Council will note that the allowances mentioned at 1 above have been uprated in accordance with employee pay settlement of 2.2%. The allowances mentioned at 2 above have been increased by the November 2014 Retail Price Index of 2.0% but the allowances mentioned at 3 above remain unchanged as the HMRC rates have not changed from 2014/15.

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		