

# **Independent Remuneration Panel on Councillors' Allowances - Recommendations 2012/13**

**Cabinet**

**Date: 12<sup>th</sup> December 2012**

---

Author:	Leader of the Council and Director of Law and Democratic Services
Wards:	All
Locality Affected:	All
Parishes Affected:	All

---

## **1. Purpose and Reasons**

- 1.1 To consider recommendations arising from a meeting of the Independent Remuneration Panel on Councillors' Allowances.
- 1.2 The Cabinet is required to consider recommendations arising from a meeting of the Independent Remuneration Panel on Councillors' Allowances and to make appropriate recommendations to the Council.

## **2. Recommendations**

Cabinet is recommended to:

- 2.1 Note, approve, and recommend to the Council the recommendations arising from the meeting of the Independent Remuneration Panel on Councillors' Allowances held on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2012, as set out in Appendix 1.
- 2.2 Note that the proposal of the Independent Remuneration Panel on Councillors' Allowances is that there should be no change in the level of Councillors' Basic Allowances for the 2013/14 Municipal Year.

## **3. Detail**

- 3.1 The Council is required by the Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 to consider the recommendations of its Independent Remuneration Panel when making decisions relating to its Scheme of Councillors' Allowances. The Panel is recommending that there is no change in the level of Councillors Basic Allowances for the next Municipal Year.
- 3.2 The Council is not required to adopt all or any of the Panel's recommendations.
- 3.3 Decisions on the Scheme of Councillors' Allowances require the approval of the full Council.
- 3.4 The Independent Remuneration Panel on Councillors' Allowances was established in late 2001. Since that time the independent panel members have met regularly to consider various issues relating to Councillors' Allowances. The Panel is made up of six members independent of the Council. One each

---

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Ian Willcox, Direct Dial Telephone Number (01793) 463601, Email: [iwillcox@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:iwillcox@swindon.gov.uk).

# **Independent Remuneration Panel on Councillors' Allowances - Recommendations 2012/13**

**Cabinet**

**Date: 12<sup>th</sup> December 2012**

---

nominated by the Education, Business and Voluntary / Community sectors and three members appointed following public advertisement.

- 3.5 The current membership of the Independent Remuneration Panel on Councillors' Allowances is Revd. John Railton (Chair), Mr John Dernie, Ms Wendy Hall, Mr Stuart Macpherson, Ms Jenny Newlyn and Mr David Wilkie.
- 3.6 The Independent Remuneration Panel at its meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2012 considered and made recommendations to the Cabinet and Council on a number of issues relating to Councillors' Allowances. These recommendations are set out in Appendix 1.
- 3.7 The Independent Remuneration Panel received a report providing an update on recent developments impacting on Council decision-making and on Councillors' and co-opted members roles and responsibilities. It in particular highlighted –
  - 3.7.1 Changes to the Standards Committee and to the roles and responsibilities of the Councillors and independent member serving on it and supporting its work.
  - 3.7.2 The establishment of the Joint Wiltshire and Swindon Police and Crime Panel as required by the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 and the Panel was asked to consider whether it wished to support recommendations of the Wiltshire Independent Remuneration Panel and Council or to make its own recommendations for the application of Special Responsibility Allowances for Swindon Councillors serving on the Police and Crime Panel and for co-opted members from the Borough's area.
  - 3.7.3 The requirement for the Council under the provisions of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 to establish, as a standing committee of the Council, a Health and Wellbeing Board by 1st April 2013 and whether Special Responsibility Allowances was appropriate for Councillors serving on this Board/Committee.
  - 3.7.4 Whether at this time the Panel wished to establish a programme to undertake a review of all Councillors' Allowances for 2013/14, or whether to recommend that there be no change in the level of Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances for the time being.
- 3.8 A copy of the report considered by the Independent Remuneration Panel is attached as Appendix 2. The minutes of the Panel's meeting and its recommendations are set out in Appendix 1. Appendix 3 provides a comparison of the Budget impact of the Panel's recommendations.

# **Independent Remuneration Panel on Councillors' Allowances - Recommendations 2012/13**

**Cabinet**

**Date: 12<sup>th</sup> December 2012**

---

## **4. Alternative Options**

- 4.1 No alternative options are proposed. The Cabinet could decide not to support the Panel's recommendations or to put forward revised recommendations to the Council.

## **5. Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management**

### Financial and Procurement Implications

- 5.1 There are no specific financial implications arising from this report at this stage.
- 5.2 The total allocation for Councillors Allowances and support for 2012/13 is £693,000. From this, £439,480 is currently set aside for the payment of Councillors' Basic Allowances (£7,710.17x 57) with £253,520 made available for Mayoral Allowances, Special Responsibility Allowances, other Allowances (e.g. Travelling and Subsistence) as specified in the Scheme.
- 5.3 Should the Cabinet and Council support the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel, it is believed that there would be no significant impact on the budget made available to fund Councillor Allowances for 2012/13 or projected for 2013/14. Appendix 3 provides a comparison of the Budget impact of the Panel's recommendations.

### Legal and Human Rights Implications

- 5.4 Legal and Human Rights considerations have been taken fully into account in compiling this report. It is considered that the recommendations of this report are compatible with convention rights.

### All Other Implications (including Staff, Sustainability, Health, Rural, Crime and Disorder)

- 5.5 There are no specific other implications arising from this report at this stage.

### Links to One Swindon, Strategic Objectives, Plans and Policies

- 5.6 There are no specific links.

### Diversity Impact Assessment

- 5.7 A Diversity Impact Assessment (DIA) has not been undertaken as the report does not make any recommendations or have implications that affect services.

# **Independent Remuneration Panel on Councillors' Allowances - Recommendations 2012/13**

**Cabinet**

**Date: 12<sup>th</sup> December 2012**

---

## **Risk Management**

- 5.8 There are no specific risk implications. Decisions on Councillors' Allowances are often controversial in media terms and thus decisions may have a reputational risk for the Council.

## **6. Consultees**

- 6.1 The Board Director Finance, Revenues, Benefits and Property (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted in respect of all reports.

## **7. Background Papers**

8. Report considered by the Independent Remuneration Panel on Councillor Allowances at its meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2012. This is available to all Councillors on the Council's Intranet and is available on request from the Report Author.

## **9. Appendices**

- 9.1 Appendix 1 –Recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel on Councillor Allowances held on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2012.

- 9.2 Appendix 2 – Budget Impact Comparison.

## **10. Key Decision/Decision in Forward Plan**

- 10.1 This is not a Key Decision (as the Council is required to determine the Scheme of Councillors' Allowances) and is included in the Cabinet Forward Plan / work programme for December 2012.