

BRECKLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report of: Mark Stinson – Executive Manager, Governance

To: Council 16 May 2019

Author: Rory Ringer, Democratic Services Manager

Subject: Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel regarding Members Scheme of Allowances 2019-2020.

Purpose: The Independent Remuneration Panel recommends to Council the Members Scheme of Allowances for the period of 1 April 2019 – 31 March 2020.

Recommendation(s):

- 1) That the new scheme is effective from 1 April 2019 until 31 March 2020.
- 2) That the Basic Allowance for District Councillors is increased in line with the locally agreed Breckland staff pay settlement of 2% for the year 1 April 2019 – 31 March 2020.
- 3) That the Special Responsibility Allowances are increased in line with the locally agreed Breckland staff pay settlement of 2% for the year 1 April 2019 – 31 March 2020.
- 4) That a special responsibility Allowance for the Vice Chairman of the Council be introduced from 1 April 2019.
- 5) That the Carer's allowance is increased to £9 per hour in line with the increase to the 'Real Living Wage' with effect from 1 April 2019.

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Breckland Council appointed an Independent Remuneration Panel to consider and recommend a scheme of allowances that complies with the requirements of the Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 and associated regulations.
- 1.2 The Panel met on two occasions and also interviewed Councillor William Nunn, Leader of the Council, and invited Councillor Denis Crawford as Leader of the main opposition party.
- 1.3 It should be noted that the panel does not propose any change to: travel and subsistence allowances; the approach to be taken in respect of allowances for town and parish councillors; nor the Council's ability to withdraw allowances from a member under a full or partial suspension

2.0 OPTIONS

- 2.1 Option 1 – To accept and approve in full the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel.
- 2.2 Option 2 – To accept and approve in part the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel.

2.3 Option 3 – To note the recommendations and not to approve the changes.

3.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

3.1 During their meetings and deliberations, the Independent Remuneration Panel had been mindful of the financial restraints affecting the Council and the public sector as a whole. Despite these, the authority continues to perform very well, and the Remuneration Panel wished to congratulate the Council for maintaining the lowest District Council Tax in the country whilst providing good levels of public satisfaction and local service provision in times of austerity.

3.2 Taking into account the comparators and the current economic situation, the Panel are minded to recommend the scheme for one year.

4.0 EXPECTED BENEFITS

4.1 This report complies with the requirements of the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 and associated regulations.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Carbon Footprint / Environmental Issues

5.1.1 The scheme of Members Allowances makes provision for travel allowances for Members. There are no recommendations being made in this report in respect of these allowances.

5.2 Constitution & Legal

5.2.1 The duty to comply with the requirements of the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 and associated regulations. Approval of the Members Scheme of Allowances is a duty reserved to full Council. The Council must have due regard to the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel when setting members' allowances.

5.3 Financial

5.3.1 Should the Council accept some or all of the recommendations of this report there will be an increase to the budget for Members Allowances.

5.4 Stakeholders / Consultation / Timescales

5.4.1 The Independent Remuneration Panel have undertaken some consultation in considering their recommendations. If approved, the changes to remuneration will be effective from 1 April 2019.

6.0 WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED

6.1 N/A

7.0 ACRONYMS

7.1 N/A

Background papers:- None

Lead Contact Officer

Name and Post: Rory Ringer, Democratic Services Manager
Telephone Number: 01362 656232
Email: rory.ringer@breckland.gov.uk

Key Decision: No

Exempt Decision: No

This report refers to a Mandatory Service

Appendices attached to this report:

Appendix A Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel (March 2019)
Appendix B Breckland Council Allowances.
Appendix C Members' Travelling and Subsistence Allowances.