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# Council



*St Edmundsbury*  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

<b>Title:</b>	<b>Report of the West Suffolk Joint Independent Remuneration Panel – Members’ Scheme of Allowances</b>	
<b>Report No:</b>	<b>COU/SE/17/003</b>	
<b>Report to and date:</b>	<b>Council</b>	21 February 2017
<b>Documents attached:</b>	<b>Appendix 1: Report No: COU/SE/16/022 (Revised) and its Appendices A (Revised), B (Revised) and C</b> Report of the West Suffolk Joint Independent Remuneration Panel – Members’ Scheme of Allowances	

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## 1. Background

- 1.1 On 20 December 2016, Council considered Report No: COU/SE/16/022, 'Report of the West Suffolk Joint Independent Remuneration Panel – Members’ Scheme of Allowances'. This was accompanied by a presentation from the Chairman of the West Suffolk Joint Independent Remuneration Panel, Karen Forster.
- 1.2 Having received a brief overview of the Panel’s deliberations, conclusions and the process undertaken that had led to the significant number of detailed recommendations contained in the report, the majority of Members considered that given the number of detailed recommendations proposed by the Panel, it was felt that the item should be deferred to allow more time to consider these recommendations and other matters raised in the report.
- 1.3 Written comments already made since the publication of the report had been noted by the Panel and Members were asked to submit any further comments they may have to the Head of HR, Legal and Democratic Services

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by 6 January 2017, which would then be presented to the Panel for consideration before the matter would be reconsidered by Council at this meeting.

- 1.4 Whilst consideration of the Panel's report was deferred to this meeting, the current scheme, which expired on 31 December 2016 needed to be extended, which subsequently formed part of the resolution, as follows:

*RESOLVED:*

*That*

- (1) following the West Suffolk Joint Independent Remuneration Panel's consideration of Members comments, this report (No: COU/SE/16/022) be reconsidered at the next ordinary meeting of the Council on 21 February 2017; save for any amendments that the Panel may feel are appropriate; and*
- (2) as a consequence of the above and as any new Scheme would not be expected to be implemented until 1 April 2017, the current St Edmundsbury Borough Council Members' Allowance Scheme be extended until a date of expiry of 31 March 2017.*

## **2. Additional Considerations**

- 2.1 The Panel has now considered Members' comments on its proposals and has made a revision to its report presented on 20 December 2016, which as a consequence has meant that Appendix A has also been revised, as shown as highlighted text in the attached and below. (Note: *An amended version of Appendix B had already been tabled at the Council meeting on 20 December 2016 due to a factual inaccuracy so this revised version is also attached.*)

For ease of reference, the revision made by the Panel to its report (Report No: COU/SE/16/022) shown as highlighted text, is as follows:

### **3.3.8 Chairmanship and Vice-Chairmanship of Committees – Licensing and Regulatory; and Standards**

*Currently, the chairmen of these two committees received a special responsibility allowance of £1,078.68*

*The Panel was advised of the significant reduction in workload for both Committees due to changes in Government Legislation. The Panel therefore proposed to reduce the multipliers to reflect this, from 0.37 to 0.20.*

*The Panel was advised that due to the lack of business, the West Suffolk Joint Standards Committee's scheduled meetings had been cancelled since 2015. In which case the Panel recommends that Council reviews the Constitution with regards to the continuing existence of this Committee.*

*Currently the vice-chairmen of these committees do not receive an SRA. This is inconsistent with other vice-chairmen of other committees. Consequently the Panel recommends an amount be paid at the same ratio to other committees.*

**Recommendations:**

- 1) *That the SRA for the Chairmanship of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee and the Standards Committee should be calculated by way of a multiplier of x0.20 the basic allowance, resulting in a special responsibility allowance of £1,117.00.*
- 2) *That Council reviews the Constitution with regards to the continuing existence of the West Suffolk Joint Standards Committee.*
- 3) *That a new SRA for the Vice-Chairmanship of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee and the Standards Committee be applied and calculated by way of a multiplier of x0.10 the basic allowance, resulting in a special responsibility allowance of £558.50.*

2.2 The additional recommendation shown at (2) above is therefore duplicated in the full list of the Panel's recommendations shown in Appendix A (revised) attached.

**3. Recommendations**

3.1 Report No: COU/SE/16/022 (Revised) and its appendices is attached for reconsideration by Council; however, it should be noted that as the decision has already been taken to extend the current scheme until a date of expiry of 31 March 2017, the decision shown in 1.4 (2) above supersedes Recommendation (3) contained in Report No: COU/SE/16/022 (Revised) and therefore consideration of that particular recommendation is no longer required. For clarity, the recommendations of the Panel are reproduced from its report below and over the page.

3.2 **It is RECOMMENDED that:**

- (1) subject to the deletion or amendment of any of the 36 specific recommendations of the West Suffolk Joint Independent Remuneration Panel contained in Appendix A (Revised) to Report No COU/SE/16/022 (Revised), the new Members' Allowance Scheme for St Edmundsbury Borough Council devised by the Panel, as set out in Appendix C to Report No: COU/SE/16/022 , be adopted;**

*Continued over....*

- (2) the new Members' Allowance Scheme be applied to cover the four year period of 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2021, subject to the inclusion of any revisions to the Scheme following an interim "light touch" review undertaken by the Panel in 2018 (date to be agreed); and**
- (3) the Constitution be amended to reflect the newly adopted Scheme accordingly.**