
Council



Forest Heath
District Council

Title:	Report of the West Suffolk Joint Independent Remuneration Panel – Members’ Scheme of Allowances	
Paper No:	COU/FH/17/004	
Paper to and date:	Council	22 February 2017
Documents attached:	Appendix 1: Report No: COU/FH/16/029 and its Appendices A, B and C Report of the West Suffolk Joint Independent Remuneration Panel – Members’ Scheme of Allowances	

1. Background

- 1.1 On 21 December 2016, Council considered Report No: COU/FH/16/029, '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 by 6 January 2017, which would then be presented to the Panel for

COU/FH/17/004

consideration before the matter would be reconsidered by Council at this meeting. No further comments were submitted by Forest Heath Councillors.

- 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/FH/16/029) be reconsidered at the next ordinary meeting of the Council on 22 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 Forest Heath District Council Members' Allowance Scheme be extended until a date of expiry of 31 March 2017.*

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Report No: COU/FH/16/29 and its Appendices are 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/FH/16/029 and therefore consideration of that particular recommendation is no longer required.

2.2 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 to Report No COU/FH/16/029, the new Members' Allowance Scheme for Forest Heath District Council devised by the Panel, as set out in Appendix C to Report No: COU/FH/16/029 , be adopted;**
- (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.**