

**Decision Maker:** COUNCIL

**Date:** Monday 22 February 2016

**Decision Type:** Non-Urgent Non-Executive Non-Key

**Title:** MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME 2016/17

**Contact Officer:** Graham Walton, Democratic Services Manager  
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**Chief Officer:** Mark Bowen, Director of Corporate Services

**Ward:** N/A

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1. Reason for report

- 1.1 The Council is required to make a scheme of allowances for members in advance of each financial year. The General Purposes and Licensing Committee at its meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2016 considered the attached report and agreed to recommend that allowances remain at the current levels for 2016/17, subject to a number of small adjustments. These are explained in section 3 of this report.
- 1.2 Mayoral and Deputy Mayoral allowances are not part of the Scheme, but are usually considered in conjunction with it.
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2. **RECOMMENDATION**

**General Purposes and Licensing Committee recommends that -**

- (1) The 2016/17 Members Allowances Scheme be approved with allowances remaining at the current level, subject to the changes outlined in section 3 of this report as set out in the updated version of the Scheme attached.**
- (2) The Mayoral Allowance remains at £15,698 and the Deputy Mayoral Allowance is increased to £3,575.**

## Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing Policy: The proposed scheme for 2016/17 is closely based on the 2015/16 scheme, with some minor amendments.
  2. BBB Priority: Excellent Council:
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## Financial

1. Cost of proposal: No additional cost
  2. Ongoing costs: N/A:
  3. Budget head/performance centre: Democratic Representation – Members Allowances  
Mayoral and Civic Hospitality – Mayoral Allowance
  4. Total current budget for this head: Members Allowances £1,038,420  
Mayoral allowance – £22,690 (includes on-costs)
  5. Source of funding: Draft 2016/17 revenue budget
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## Staff

1. Number of staff (current and additional): N/A
  2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: N/A
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## Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Statutory Requirement: Sections 18 and 19 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, Section 100, Local Government Act 2000, The Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003.
  2. Call-in: Not Applicable: making and varying the Members Allowances Scheme is reserved to full Council and is not an executive decision.
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## Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): All 60 Members of the Council
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## Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? N/A
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments: N/A

### 3. COMMENTARY

- 3.1 An informal cross-party working group met on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2016 to consider the Members Allowances Scheme for 2016/17.

The Working Group asked the Director of Corporate Services to review the Scheme within six months, so that any changes could be in place before the 2018 local election, but recommended that the following changes be made for the 2016/17 scheme, all within the existing budget –

(a) the allowances for the Chairmen of Development Control Committee, General Purposes and Licensing Committee, Executive and Resources PDS Committee and Health and Wellbeing Board be equalised at £8,670;

(b) the allowance for the Leader of the largest opposition group be aligned with the allowance for PDS Chairmen (£7,140), with the allowance for the Leader of the second opposition being half of this amount (£3,570).

(c) The allowance for the Deputy Mayor be increased to the level of the Executive Assistants (£3,575);

(d) All amounts in the scheme be rounded up or down as appropriate to the nearest £5.

An amended version the Scheme including an updated Schedule 1 is attached to the report.

<b>Non-Applicable Sections:</b>	See attached report
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	See attached report