

AUDIT COMMITTEE – 11TH JUNE 2018

Report of the Head of Strategic Support

Part A

ITEM ALLOWANCES AND EXPENSES CLAIMED BY COUNCILLORS AND CO-OPTED MEMBERS 2018/19

Purpose of Report

To consider the amounts claimed by members of the Borough Council and co-opted members under the Council's Members' Allowances Scheme for 2018/2019.

Recommendations

1. That the amounts claimed in allowances and expenses by Councillors and co-opted members be noted; and
2. that any issues arising from the report be referred to the Head of Strategic Support for further investigation.

Reasons

1. To enable the Committee to ensure that the operation of the Members' Allowances Scheme complied with the published standards and controls.
2. To ensure that the issues could be investigated and a response given, and if necessary recommendations made for addressing any unresolved issues.

Policy Justification and Previous Decisions

The role of the Audit Committee is to provide part of the Council's assurance/compliance framework, including considering the Council's compliance with its own and other published standards and controls.

Implementation Timetable including Future Decisions

Any issues that the Committee identify should be referred to the Head of Strategic Support for further investigation and a further report if necessary.

Report Implications

The following implications have been identified for this report.

Financial Implications

None.

Risk Management

There are no specific risks associated with this decision.

Background Papers: The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances)
 (England) Regulations 2003.

Officer to Contact: Adrian Ward
 Head of Strategic Support
 (01509) 634573
 adrian.ward@charnwood.gov.uk

Part B

Background

1. The Council's Members' Allowances Scheme is reviewed by an Independent Remuneration Panel which makes recommendations to Council on the Allowances to be paid to Councillors and co-opted members and what expenses can be claimed and the criteria under which a claim can be made.
2. The Regulations require the Panel to produce a report making recommendations to the Council, so it can set:
 - the amount of basic allowance;
 - whether special responsibility allowances should be paid and, if so, the duties to which they should apply and the amounts of those allowances;
 - whether an allowance relating to the expense of arranging for the care of children or dependents should be available (carers' allowance) and, if so, the amount of that allowance;
 - whether travelling and subsistence allowances should be available and, if so, the duties for which they should be payable and the amounts of those allowances; and
 - whether a basic allowance should be paid to co-opted members and, if so, the amount of that allowance.
3. For the year 2018/2019, the recommendations of the Panel and revised Scheme were approved at the Council meeting on 25th March 2019 (Council Minute 91.4 2018/2019).
4. The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 require each local authority to publish details of allowances paid to each Councillor for the previous year. The information for the financial year 2018/2019 is attached as an Appendix to this report.

Appendices

Appendix – Allowances and Expenses paid to Councillors and Co-opted Members (April 2018 to March 2019).