

Recommendations to the Council

Members' Allowances Scheme - Independent Remuneration Panel Addendum to Annual Report 2013/14 following County Council Elections on 2 May 2013

1. The County Council is required to establish and maintain an Independent Remuneration Panel to provide advice and recommendations to the Council on its Members' Allowances Scheme. Any decisions on the nature and level of allowances are a matter for the full Council, but the Council must have regard to any recommendations submitted by the Independent Remuneration Panel before establishing or amending the Members' Allowances Scheme. The Panel meets each year to consider the recommendations to be made to the Council in respect of the level and nature of the forthcoming year's allowances. These recommendations were made and approved in March 2013.

2. The County Council asked the Independent Remuneration Panel (The Panel) to reconvene to consider specific aspects of the members' allowance scheme following the County Council Elections on 2 May 2013. The issues the Panel were asked to consider included: the level of special responsibility allowances (SRA) following the re-introduction of the role of Cabinet Support Members; reinstating the SRAs paid to Shadow Cabinet Members; and the allowances paid to the Leaders of the principal and minority opposition groups.

3. In 2008/09 the Cabinet consisted of the Leader of the Council plus six Cabinet Members. The Leader of the Opposition formed a shadow cabinet of six members including himself. Consequently, only five SRAs were paid to Shadow Cabinet as the Shadow Leader received the SRA for being Leader of the Principal Opposition. For 2013/14, the Cabinet consists of the Leader of the Council plus five Cabinet Members. The Leader of the Principal Opposition Group has appointed five members to his Shadow Cabinet (excluding himself), If the same principal were to be followed in 2013 as in 2008 then there would be four Shadow Cabinet SRAs paid together with an SRA to the Leader of the Principal Opposition. The interpretation from 2008 would mean that one of these shadow cabinet members will not receive an SRA, a decision that would be for the Leader of the Principal Opposition to make. Alternatively full council could confirm that SRAs should be paid to five Shadow Cabinet members.

(Note: The Independent Remuneration Panel's Addendum report of May 2013 detailing further recommendations on the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2013/14 has been sent to all members of the County Council and a copy is available at:-

<http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/yourcouncil/members/membersallowances/home.aspx>

4. Recommend – That:

(a) the recommendations of the Audit and Standards Committee meeting on 24 June 2013 to approve the addendum report to the Annual Report 2013/14 of the Independent Remuneration Panel be approved and allowances be backdated to the Annual Council meeting on 16 May 2013, as detailed below:-

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COUNCIL

- (i) **Cabinet Support Members** - the allowance be set at a level of 25% of the Leader of the Council's Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA) (£8,750).
- (ii) **Leader of the Principal Opposition** - the allowance be set at a level of 50 % of the Leader of the Council's SRA (£17,500).
- (iii) **Leaders of the Minority Opposition Groups** - the allowance be set at a level of 5% of the Leader of the Council's SRA (£1,750).
- (iv) **Shadow Cabinet** - the allowance be set at 15% of the Leader of the Council's SRA (£5,250).

(b) the number of SRAs for Shadow Cabinet be confirmed as either:-

- (i) 5 (including the Leader of the Principle Opposition) **or**
- (ii) 5 (plus the Leader of the Principle Opposition).