

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

Committee	STANDARDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE	Item A1	Page 1
Report Originator	Anne Ireson Democratic Services Manager		
Wards Affected	All	9 th October 2017	
Title	REVIEW OF MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES		

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To consider the process for the review of the Scheme of Members' Allowances, and particularly to endorse the appointment of members to the Independent Review Panel and to agree the content of the Briefing Pack.

2. INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Independent Review Panel for Members' Allowances last met in January 2012. A new scheme of members' allowances was subsequently adopted by Council at its meeting on 25th April 2017.
- 2.2 A meeting of the Independent Review Panel has been convened under The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 (SI 1021). The regulations require all local authorities to maintain an advisory Independent Panel to review and provide advice on Members' Allowances. All Councils are required to seek the Independent Panel's advice before they make any changes or amendments to their allowances scheme and they must pay regard to the Panel's recommendations before setting a new or amended Member's Allowances Scheme.
- 2.3 The Council's Independent Review Panel is due to meet at 9.00 am on Thursday, 2nd November 2017 at the Municipal Offices, Bowling Green Road, Kettering to review the Council's Scheme of Members' Allowances. It is proposed that the Panel will once again be chaired by Professor Steve Leach, Emeritus Professor of Public Policy at DeMontfort University, who will be joined by a representative of the local business sector and a representative of the voluntary sector. Ms Sue Watts of Age Concern has agreed to continue to represent the voluntary sector on the Panel.
- 2.4 Following the retirement of the member representing the business sector, the Council is now looking to recruit an independent representative from the business sector in the Borough of Kettering to the Panel. Information for potential nominees has been available on the Council's website since mid-August, with a closing date for applications at the end of September. Persons appointed to the Panel should be completely independent of the Council and

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have no business or personal connections with any member of Kettering Borough Council. The appointment is on a voluntary basis, but panel members can claim any travel expenses incurred in connection with the appointment.

- 2.5 A draft Briefing Pack has been prepared for consideration by the Standards Advisory Committee, prior to submission to the Independent Review Panel and is attached as Appendix "A". The pack will also be available on the Council's website. Members are requested to consider the draft Briefing Pack prior to endorsement by the Standards Advisory Committee
- 2.7 Members, officers and other interested parties will have the opportunity to meet with the Panel to put forward their views. This will take the form of one-to-one appointments with the Panel prior to it meeting to consider its recommendations to the Council. Written representations will also be accepted by the Panel.

3. TIMETABLE FOR THE REVIEW

- 3.1 Following approval of the Briefing Pack by the Standards Advisory Committee, the following timetable has been drawn up for the review:-

Independent Review Panel to meet	2 nd November 2017
Report of the Panel to be considered by the Research and Development Committee	28 th November 2017
Executive Committee	6 th December 2017
Council to adopt a new Scheme of Allowances	13 th December 2017

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- (i) the Standards Committee endorse the appointment of Professor Steve Leach as the Chair of the Panel, Ms Sue Watts as a representative of the voluntary sector and a suitable representative of the business sector; and
- (ii) the Briefing Pack for the Independent Review Panel be approved, subject to any amendments as recommended by the Committee.

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