**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

For Council to determine and approve how the national 2015 Pay Award for staff is to be applied to the current Scheme of Members’ Allowances.

1. **INFORMATION**

2.1 The Council is required to conduct a regular review of its members' allowances scheme. The current scheme of members' allowances was approved in April 2012, following the receipt of recommendations from the Independent Review Panel on Members' Allowances. The Council’s Independent Review Panel is scheduled to meet later in 2015, when it will review the following allowances:-

* Basic Allowance
* Special Responsibility Allowances
* The Ward Initiatives Fund
* Travel and Other Allowances
* Childcare and Dependent Carer's Allowances
* Mayoral Allowances
* Members’ IT Allowance

2.2 The current scheme of members’ allowances states that:-

 *“The amounts paid under the scheme shall be increased on 1st April each year by an equivalent percentage amount as that paid to officers on spinal column points 35-40.”*

* 1. In November 2014, a 2.2% pay rise was awarded nationally to the majority of local government staff, effective from 1st January 2015. In addition, a lump sum equivalent to 0.45% of the proposed new salaries on SCPs 26-49 inclusive was awarded, £100 of which was payable in December 2014 with the remaining balance to be paid in April 2015 (pro-rata for part-time staff).

2.4 As the current scheme of members’ allowances makes no provision for the award of allowances on a date other than 1st April each year, as a matter of housekeeping Council is required to determine how the increase is to be applied.

2.5 The national 2015 pay award for officers did not include consolidation of the lump sum into pay scales, or for the 2.2% pay award to be backdated to 1st April 2014.

**5. USE OF RESOURCES**

 In line with the current members’ allowance scheme, budgetary provision has been made.

**6. RECOMMENDATION**

That, as in previous years, the members’ allowance scheme be amended to reflect the change in the national pay award (SCP 35-40).

Background Papers: Previous Reports/Minutes:

### Title of Document:

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