

REPORT TO: CORPORATE SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Date of Meeting: 29 June 2016
Report of: Corporate Manager Democratic and Civic Support
Title: Members' Allowances and Expenses Paid 2015/16

Is this a Key Decision?

No

* One that affects finances over £1m or significantly affects two or more wards. If this is a key decision then the item must be on the appropriate forward plan of key decisions.

Is this an Executive or Council Function?

Council function

1. What is the report about?

To report the allowances paid to Elected Members in 2015/16.

2. Recommendation:

That Members of the Scrutiny Committee Resources note the allowances paid and expenses claimed by Members in 2015/16.

3. Reasons for the recommendation:

The Council has a statutory obligation to publish all allowances paid, and expenses claimed by Members each financial year.

4. What are the resource implications including non financial resources.

There is an existing budget allocation to meet the amount paid in Members' Allowances. Until recently, the expenses claimed were not administered centrally, therefore making it difficult to fully understand the amount being claimed each year. This has now been rectified, with all expense claims being processed via the Democratic Services team.

5. Section 151 Officer comments:

The report reflects payments made during the 2015/16 financial year and they remained within the budget set.

6. What are the legal aspects?

The Members Allowances Scheme is governed by the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, and in particular the details are set out in the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003. Publication of the details contained in this report meet these requirements.

7. Monitoring Officer's comments:

The report raises no issues for the Monitoring Officer.

8. Report details:

The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 require the Council to publish the total sum of each of the following allowances paid to each recipient in the previous financial year:

- (a) basic allowance
- (b) special responsibility allowance
- (c) dependants' carers' allowance
- (d) travelling and subsistence allowance; and
- (e) co-optees' allowance and
- (f) the Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor's expenses allowance.

A schedule of allowances made and expenses claimed for 2015/16 is attached to this report.

9. How does the decision contribute to the Council's Corporate Plan?

- Ensuring a well run Council.
- To invoke public confidence that the Council's operation in relation to Members are transparent.

10. What risks are there and how can they be reduced?

The risks are reduced by the publication of this annual report.

11. What is the impact of the decision on equality and diversity; health and wellbeing; safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults, community safety and the environment?

There is no impact.

12. Are there any other options?

Not applicable.

**John Street,
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Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1972 (as amended)

Background papers used in compiling this report:-

None

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