

REPORT TO: CORPORATE SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Date of Meeting: 28 June 2018
Report of: Corporate Manager Democratic and Civic Support
Title: Members' Allowances and Expenses Paid 2017/18

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 2017/18.

2. Recommendation:

That Members of the Scrutiny Committee Resources note the allowances paid and expenses claimed by Members in 2017/18.

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 amounts contained within the report were within the overall budget set for members allowances. There are therefore no financial issues for members to be aware of.

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 Monitoring Officer notes that the publication of the details concerned in this report meet the statutory requirements imposed upon local authorities.

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,
- (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 2017/18 is attached to this report in Appendix 1.

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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