

## **REPORT OF THE COUNCIL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

### **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL**

**2016-17**

#### **A. INTRODUCTION**

1. The Annual Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel was discussed at the Council Business Management Committee meeting of 20 March 2017 and a copy of the Panel's Report is attached as an Appendix to this Report.
2. The Panel has worked consistently within the requirements of the Local Government Act 2000 and the accompanying Statutory Guidance and Regulations on Councillors' allowances.
3. The City Council must have regard to the recommendations of an Independent Remuneration Panel before it can set up or amend its Members' Allowances Scheme. The Council is, of course, free to accept the Panel's recommendations in full, in part, or not all.

#### **B. PANEL'S RECOMMENDATIONS**

4. The Panel's main recommendation is for the Basic Allowance to be frozen once again at its current level, £16,267, for 2017-18.
5. The Panel completed a 'Root and Branch' review two years ago (April 2015 report, with a supplementary report published in October 2015). The Panel will undertake a full review next year (2017/18) to consider, amongst other things, the effect of new ward boundaries, the reduction in the number of councillors and the resulting new role for councillors.
6. The Panel took no new evidence on Special Responsibility Allowances. However, Panel Members will reconvene to consider any Constitutional change in the new municipal year, should there be any. In that case, the Panel expects that any changes to Special Responsibility Allowances will be applicable from the date of the Constitution changes.

#### **MOTION**

The recommendations made by the Independent Remuneration Panel on Page 4 of its Annual Report be accepted and implemented with effect from 23 May 2017.