

Report to:	COUNCIL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
Report of:	CITY SOLICITOR
Date of Meeting:	20 MARCH 2017
Subject:	ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL
Wards affected:	N/A

1.	Purpose of report:
1.1	This report summarises the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel following the annual review of the City Councillors' Allowances Scheme and sets out the proposed motion to be considered by the City Council.
1.2	A full copy of the Independent Remuneration Panel's Annual Report is attached.

2.	Decision(s) recommended:
2.1	<p>That the Council's Business Management Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Receives the annual report of the Independent Remuneration Panel;• Recommends the following motion to the City Council: 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.

Contact Officer:	Emma Williamson, Head of Scrutiny Services
Telephone no/e-mail address:	0121 464 6870 emma.williamson@birmingham.gov.uk

3. Relevant background/chronology of key events.	
3.1	An Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) was established by the City Council at its meeting on 2nd July 2001. There are now eight members of the panel made up of four Citizen Representatives; two appointed and two co-opted members. An allowance is paid to each panel member.
3.2	The 2016/17 Annual Report of the IRP is attached to this report. Committee is reminded that the council must have full regard to the recommendations within the report.
3.3	The Panel has worked consistently within the requirements of the Local Government Act 2000 and the accompanying Statutory Guidance and Regulations on Councillors' allowances.
3.4	The Panel's main recommendation is for the Basic Allowance to be kept at its current level, £16,267, for 2017-18.
3.5	The Panel completed a 'Root and Branch' review two years ago (April 2015 report, with a supplementary report published in October 2015); and 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.
3.6	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.
3.7	A member of the Panel will attend and present the report at Committee, and at Council, if required.

4. Compliance and Financial Issues:	
4.1	The annual review has been conducted in accordance with the Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003.
4.2	One of the key objectives of the Allowances Scheme is to 'promote a healthy democracy by removal of financial disadvantage as a barrier to people from a wide range of backgrounds and with a wide range of skills standing for election or serving as Councillors'.

Signature:
Chief Officer:
KATE CHARLTON, CITY SOLICITOR