

MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

Report of the County Secretary

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1. Background

At its meeting on 1 April 2003 the Council approved a Members' Allowances Scheme for 2003/4, having taken into account recommendations from the Independent Panel.

The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 which came into force on 1 May 2003, require the Council to make a fresh Scheme before 30 September (to run until 31 March 2004) and for the Council to have regard to further recommendations from the Independent Panel before doing so.

2. Information

The 2003 Regulations also introduce new requirements and options. The Panel has considered all elements required of them under the Regulations and the outcome of their deliberations is set out in their report which is attached.

3. Conclusions

The Council is invited to receive the Panel's report and to adopt their recommendations (paragraphs 14 to 18); and then to agree a new Scheme to run from 1 August 2003 to 31 March 2004. A draft Scheme, taking account of the Panel's recommendations, is attached.

4. Financial Implications

There are no financial implications, since the new Scheme does not change any of the allowances agreed on 1 April.