

## Recommendations to the Council

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### Members' Allowances Scheme - Independent Remuneration Panel Report

The County Council is required to establish and maintain an Independent Remuneration Panel to provide advice and recommendations to the Council on its Members' Allowances Scheme. Any decision on the nature and level of allowances are a matter for the full Council, but the Council must have regard to any recommendations submitted by the Independent Remuneration Panel before establishing or amending the Members' Allowances Scheme. The Panel meets each year to consider the recommendations to be made to the Council in respect of the level and nature of the forthcoming year's allowances.

The Independent Remuneration Panel's report of March 2019, including recommendations on the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2019/20, is attached.

As part of their deliberations and in response to feedback from Members of the Council, in addition to the Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA) for the Opposition Leader, the Panel have proposed a change to the County Council's Constitution to include three new roles of Opposition Select Committee Vice-Chairmen created from the single Shadow Cabinet Member Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA). The Independent Remuneration Panel proposes that the Opposition Deputy Leader will hold a vice-chairmanship on the Corporate Review Select Committee and the three Opposition Select Committee posts will hold a vice-chairmanship on the Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee, Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee and the Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee.

In the report, the Panel have also proposed to the Council that the Chairman of the County Council, in consultation with the relevant group leader, be given delegated authority to increase the allowance paid to the Vice-Chairmen of a Committee to the level of the corresponding Chairman's allowance if they are required to take on the responsibilities of the Chairman for a sustained period. The Special Responsibility Allowance paid to the Chairman of the Committee will be suspended during this period.

**Recommend** – (a) That the Council's views on the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel are requested.

(b) That, if the Council are minded to support the recommendations of the Panel:

- (i) the Council's Constitution be amended to include the provision of a Shadow Select Committee Vice-Chairman.
- (ii) the Council's Constitution be amended to give delegated authority to the Chairman of the County Council, following consultation with the relevant group leader, to increase the allowance paid to the Vice-Chairmen of a Committee to the level of the corresponding Chair's allowance if they are required to take on the responsibilities of the Chair for a sustained period; and

that when this power is utilised, the Chairmen's allowance be suspended during this period.