



## **REPORT of MONITORING OFFICER**

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**to  
JOINT STANDARDS COMMITTEE  
21 FEBRUARY 2019**

### **AGREEMENT OF AN ALLOWANCE FOR THE INDEPENDENT PERSON**

#### **1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To consider increasing the allowance of the Independent Person.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATION**

That the annual allowance is increased to 20% of the Members Basic Allowance to be paid monthly starting from May 2019, as the beginning of the new municipal year, as a replacement for the existing allowance and reimbursement of internet costs.

#### **3. SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES**

- 3.1 The Independent Person, presently Mr Norman Hodson, receives an annual allowance of £500 plus £219.96 for reimbursement of internet costs. The total annual figure is £719.96.
- 3.2 The Independent Person has responsibility to advise Members on any ethical issues and be available for advice whenever an investigation is taking place into the conduct of any member, whether at district or parish levels. Furthermore as part of the Council's complaint procedure he must be consulted on how to take complaints forward. This has involved reading detailed information about the complaint and at times meeting with the Monitoring Officer, Simon Quelch. Finally the Independent Person is expected to attend meetings of this Committee and be available for advice.
- 3.3 In the view of the Monitoring Officer the present allowance does not reflect the time allocated by the Independent Person to these duties. Although an assessment of time taken cannot be precise it is estimated that about 20% of the time expected to be given by a member would be reasonable.
- 3.4 The recommended increase amounts to £966 and ensures that the allowance is linked to the increases given to Members rather than being a fixed sum and so avoids regular reviews by this Committee.

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

- 4.1 The Monitoring Officer is of the opinion that an increase in allowance is justified based on the time dedicated to the role and the value of the advice provided, particularly to the Monitoring Officer.

#### **5. IMPACT ON CORPORATE GOALS**

- 5.1 None.

#### **6. IMPLICATIONS**

- (i) **Impact on Customers** – None.
- (ii) **Impact on Equalities** – None.
- (iii) **Impact on Risk** – None.
- (iv) **Impact on Resources (financial)** – An increase to the public purse of £246.04.
- (v) **Impact on Resources (human)** – None.
- (vi) **Impact on the Environment** – None.

Background Papers: None.

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