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**Subject:** MEMBERS' ALLOWANCE SCHEME

**Meeting and Date:** Council – 4 March 2015

**Report of:** Director of Governance

**Classification:** UNRESTRICTED

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**Purpose of the report:** To make the Members' Allowance Scheme for 2015/16.

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**Recommendation:** To make the Members' Allowance Scheme for 2015/16.

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1. **Summary**

Under Regulation 10 of the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003/1021 the Council is required to make a scheme for the payment of allowances to Members.

2. **Introduction and Background**

2.1 This report does not seek to increase the levels of allowances payable to Members. However, in making any Scheme the Council must give consideration to the non-binding levels of allowances recommended by the East Kent Joint Independent Remuneration Panel (Appendix 2).

2.2 A number of minor changes are also proposed to the Members' Allowances Scheme for the purpose of updating it to reflect current legislation and administrative processes.

3. **Identification of Options**

3.1 Option 1: To make the Members' Allowance Scheme as set out in Appendix 1 of this report. These changes will have no financial implications as the proposed allowance levels remain unchanged.

3.2 Option 2: To make the Members' Allowance Scheme set out in Appendix 1 with amendments.

3.3 Option 3: To reconfirm the existing Members' Allowance Scheme without change.

4. **Evaluation of Options**

4.1 Option 1 is the preferred option as this ensures the Council has an updated set of arrangements for Members' Allowances.

4.2 Option 2 is not recommended as the proposed Members' Allowance Scheme set out in Appendix 1 is cost neutral and no provisions for increasing the Members' Allowances Scheme has been made in the budget.

4.3 Option 3 is not recommended as the Council's current scheme requires updating as a result of legislative changes since 2009.

5. **Resource Implications**

There are no resource implications as the level of allowances for councillors remains unchanged.

6. **Corporate Implications**

The Council is required to make arrangements for a Members' Allowance Scheme.

7. **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Proposed Members' Allowance Scheme 2015/16

Appendix 2 – East Kent Joint Independent Remuneration Panel Recommendations

8. **Background Papers**

Constitution of the Council – Issue 19(b)

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