

By: Director of Governance and Law  
To: Selection and Member Services Committee – June 2016  
Subject: MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES AND EXPENSES 2015/16  
Status: Unrestricted

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Summary: The Committee is invited to note and approve for publication the annual return for Members' allowances and expenses, together with details of the costs of the County Car service and taxis for Members for 2015/16.

FOR INFORMATION

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### Introduction

1. In accordance with paragraph 15 of The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003, Kent County Council is required to publish annually the allowances paid to Members, which includes the Basic, Special Responsibility, Travelling and Subsistence, Dependent Carers and Co-optees Allowances. The Committee will also be aware of the legal requirement for the County Council to have a Member Remuneration Panel to advise the Council on the level of allowances and expenses Members should receive.

### Details for 2015/16

2. The schedule of Members' Allowances and Expenses for the period 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016 is attached as **Appendix A**. The total gross cost (including VAT) of all allowances and expenses for Members in 2015/16 is £1,767,838 which represents a 1.14% increase in total costs compared to 2014/15 of £1,747,927. As the VAT element can be reclaimed, Member's allowances and expenses have been reported monthly throughout the year on a net basis (excluding VAT) in order to demonstrate the true cost to the authority.

3. At its meeting on 13 July 2011, this Committee agreed that the costs incurred by Members using the County Cars and taxis that were booked directly by KCC should also be reported on an annual basis. The total net cost of the County Car service in 2015/16 was £48,178, compared to £38,842 in 2014/15, as detailed in **Appendix B**.

### Recommendation:

4. The Committee is requested to note this report and agree to the publication of the allowances and expenses for 2015/16 as detailed in **Appendix A** as required by the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003.

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*Background Information: Members' Expenses records for 2015/16 held by Kent County Council.*