

Policy and Resources Committee

Date:	26 March 2013
Title:	Mayor's Allowance
Purpose of the Report:	To consider increasing the annual allowance
Contact Officer:	Helen Stewart, Town Clerk

Background

The Local Government Act 1972 allows for the Town Mayor to be paid an allowance to meet the expenses of his/her office. The amount is determined by the Council as part of its annual budget setting.

Whilst representing the town the following list is legitimate expenditure for which there is reimbursement:

- Mileage to and from events or taxi fares
- Tickets for events
- Raffle/draw tickets
- Donations to charity stalls, etc.
- Reasonable clothing allowance for civic events
- Telephone, stationery and printing.

It is recognised that the Mayor may be accompanied to many formal engagements by his or her spouse or partner. Reasonable expenditure under the above headings in respect of the Mayor's spouse or partner represents legitimate expenditure.

It is expected that where possible receipts will support expenditure. Where it is not possible to provide receipts, vouchers will be completed and submitted. Any allowable expenses incurred by the Deputy Mayor while deputising for the Mayor may be payable out of the allowance subject to the Mayor's agreement.

If the allowance is not fully spent by the end of the Mayor's term of office, the Mayor may either return the balance to the Council or contribute the balance to the Mayor's nominated charity.

Allowance

The last time the level of the allowance was reviewed was in 2005. In the past couple of years some of the Mayors have found that the allocated budget does not cover their expenditure. The serving Mayor has asked that the budget allocation be reviewed by this Committee.

Risk Assessment

A lack of sufficient funds to meet expenses incurred whilst serving as Mayor may deter councillors from standing which could result in not having a Town Mayor.

Resource Appraisal

The budget allocation is £1500 with an additional £500 to pay for the Civic Reception.

Legal Powers:

The Local Government Act 1972

Recommendation:

The Committee is asked to:

- i) Consider increasing the Mayor's Allowance to £2000***
- ii) Retain the allocated £500 for the Civic Reception.***