



Subject:	Scheme of Allowances
Date:	20 <sup>th</sup> January, 2017
Reporting Officer:	Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager
Contact Officer:	Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager

<b>Is this report restricted?</b>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Is the decision eligible for Call-in?</b>	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	To approve amendments to the Council's Scheme of Allowances.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Approve the amended Scheme of Allowances.</li></ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	The Department for Communities has published consolidated guidance on Councillors' Allowances (copy attached at Appendix 1). The Council is required to agree and publish its own Scheme of Allowances.
3.2	The amendments to the existing guidance on Councillors' allowances focus on the issue of Dependent Carers' Allowances. In the new guidance, the rules on this allowance have been revised to make it more easily accessible to councillors who require to use the facility in order to attend Committee meetings or other approved duties.

3.3	The Council's Scheme of Allowances have been amended to reflect this change. A copy of the revised Scheme is attached at Appendix 2 with the changes highlighted in yellow.
3.4	<p><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></p> <p>There may be some additional costs to the Council if more Members make use of the Dependant Carers' Allowance but this can be accommodated within existing budgets.</p>
3.5	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
4.1	Appendix 1 – Consolidated Councillor Allowance Guidance from the Department for Communities
4.2	Appendix 2 – Revised Scheme of Allowances