

MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES – SCHEME TO APPLY FROM 1 APRIL 2024

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 That the Cabinet recommend to Full Council that the current scheme of members' allowances be made as the scheme to apply from 1 April 2024.
- 1.2 That officers be requested to make the necessary arrangements for a meeting of the Independent Remuneration Panel in Autumn this year, to review and make recommendations on the Council's Members' Allowances Scheme in the light of 12 months' operation under the new 48 Member Council structure.

2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Allowances paid to members of the Council are set out in the Members' Allowances Scheme. The Council is required annually to make a scheme of members' allowances, which must be published. The current scheme is available to view [here](#). The current scheme was adopted in July 2022 following a review by the Independent Remuneration Panel.

3. CURRENT SCHEME

- 3.1 The current scheme provides for the annual adjustment of allowances (basic, special responsibility and dependant carers' allowances) by the Local Government staff employees' national pay award annual percentage increase.
- 3.2 The employee's national pay award for 2024/25 is still being negotiated. If an award is made it will automatically, under the terms of the Scheme, be backdated to 1 April 2024. No other changes to the scheme are proposed. Indeed, no changes are possible without a recommendation from the Independent Remuneration Panel.

4. INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL – MEETING IN AUTUMN 2024

- 4.1 When the Council commissioned the current Independent Remuneration Panel in February 2022, arrangements were approved for two reviews of the Council's Members' Allowances scheme; during 2022/23 and from 2024 onwards.
- 4.2 The review from 2024 onwards provides the opportunity to reflect on the commencement of the new, 48 Member Council structure and associated governance arrangements, following the quadrennial District Council elections in May 2023. An Autumn 2024 review provides for a review in light of 12 months of operation under this new structure.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Provision has been made in the draft 2024/25 budget.

6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The continued adoption of a Members' Allowances Scheme with provision for Parental Leave and a Dependent Carers' Allowance has positive implications by ensuring potential candidates are not deterred from standing for election, taking into account a range of personal circumstances.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The continued adoption of a Members' Allowances Scheme with provision for electric vehicles, bicycles and public transport, promotes the use of sustainable travel for Council business.

8. CRIME AND DISORDER AND DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

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Background Papers:

Published documents
[Cabinet Report – 6 July 2022](#)