

**MEMBERS ALLOWANCES – INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Cllr May, Cllr Denaro
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Claire Felton, Head of Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services
Ward(s) Affected	All
Ward Councillor(s) Consulted	N/A

**1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS**

1.1 This report asks the Council to consider the report and recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP); to decide whether or not to accept the IRP's report and to agree the Members Allowances scheme for 2021-22 arising from this.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

**The Council is asked to RESOLVE**

**2.1 whether or not to accept all, some or none of the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel for 2021-22;**

**2.2 having considered the Panel's report and recommendations, whether or not changes are required to the Council's scheme of allowances for Members arising from this.**

**3. KEY ISSUES**

**Financial Implications**

3.1 If the Council makes changes to the current amounts of allowances there may be additional savings or costs. If the Council implements all the recommendations of the IRP costs across the year would be increased in the region of £7,500; if the current multipliers are used but the proposed basic allowance is accepted the increase will be approximately £5,600. This does not include Chairs of overview and scrutiny task groups as they are paid pro rata for the length of the task group.

**Legal Implications**

3.2 The Council is required to maintain a Panel of people from outside the Council to consider and recommend to it:

- the level of basic and special responsibility allowances paid to Councillors

and

- travel, subsistence and dependent carers' expenses for Councillors

The Council is required to "have regard" to the recommendations of the Panel. However, it is not obliged to agree to them. It can choose to implement them in full or in part, or not to accept them.

- 3.3 If the Council wishes to change its scheme of allowances for Councillors it should do so prior to the start of the new financial year, having had regard to recommendations made by the Panel. If changes to the amounts of the allowances are agreed by the Council, then the scheme will be updated automatically.

**Service/Operational Implications**

- 3.4 The report in appendix 1 contains the allowances recommended by the Panel.

**Customer/Equalities and Diversity Implications**

- 3.5 There are no specific customer or equalities implications arising from this report.

**4. RISK MANAGEMENT**

Payments to Councillors can be a high profile issue. The main risks are reputational. However, the Council is transparent about the decisions made on allowances. The Allowances scheme and sums paid to Councillors each year are published on the Council's website.

**5. APPENDICES**

Report and recommendations from the Independent Remuneration Panel for 2021-22.

**6. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

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