

## **Councillors' Allowances Scheme: Review**

**26 January 2022**

### **Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel**

#### **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To report on the Annual Review of the Councillors' Allowances Scheme by the Independent Remuneration Panel.

This report is public.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- (1) That the basic allowance in the Councillors' Allowances Scheme 2021/22 be increased in line with the employee pay award (when agreed) and backdated to 1 April 2021.**
- (2) That, save for the change detailed in (1) above, and any other pay award which may be granted for employees for 2022/23, the Councillors' Allowances Scheme should remain unchanged in 2022/23.**

#### **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 Local authorities are required to establish and maintain an Independent Remuneration Panel to provide them with recommendations on a scheme of allowances to be paid to members and others. The authority must have regard to the recommendations of its IRP before it makes or amends its members' allowance scheme.

#### **2.0 The Review**

- 2.1 The IRP has carried out its light touch review for 2022/23, as required at this point in the electoral cycle. A full review is only carried out in the year before the City Council's elections, which will be 2022/23.
- 2.2 A message was sent out to all Councillors via email on 27 October 2021, asking them to raise any issues of concern, or suggestions for change, for the Panel's attention. The deadline given was 19 November 2021 which would have allowed time for the Panel to convene to consider any matters raised. No issues were raised, and the Panel felt that there were no pressing issues which should be looked at, either.
- 2.3 It should be noted that a full review of the Scheme will be carried out in 2022/23 so that a new scheme can be approved by Council for application following the May 2023

elections. All special responsibility allowances will be reassessed during that full review. Members will be invited by the Panel to have their say in a series of meetings which will be set up in Autumn 2022.

### **3.0 Employee Pay Awards and Councillors' Basic Allowances**

- 3.1 Council agreed with the IRP's recommendation in February 2021 "That the basic allowance be increased, year on year, in line with Employee Pay Awards, unless the IRP recommends otherwise. Should the IRP recommend otherwise, its recommendation will be put to Council at the appropriate time."
- 3.2 At the time of writing this report, the employee pay award has not been finalised, however, the IRP is content that, when an award is agreed, the same percentage increase should be applied to Councillor's basic allowance. This is reflected in recommendation (1) above.

### **4.0 Conclusion**

- 4.1 Members are requested to have regard to the report of the IRP when setting a scheme for Members' Allowances to come into effect in May 2022.

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| <b>CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT</b><br>(including Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing) There are no direct implications as a result of this report. |
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| <b>FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS</b> |
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| The recommendations of the IRP, if approved, are likely to result in an increase to Councillors' basic allowance in line with the pay award for employees. This has been budgeted for. |
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| <b>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS</b> |
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| Lancaster City Council's Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) was established in accordance with Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003. |
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| <b>SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS</b> |
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| The Section 151 Officer has been consulted and has no comments. |
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| <b>MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS</b> |
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| The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no comments. |
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| <b>BACKGROUND PAPERS</b> |
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| <b>Contact Officer:</b> Debbie Chambers<br><b>Telephone:</b> 01524 582057<br><b>E-mail:</b> dchambers@lancaster.gov.uk |
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