

## **Councillors' Basic Allowance**

**30 September 2020**

### **Report of the Head of Democratic Services**

To determine whether Council wishes to accept a 2.75% increase to basic allowance for Councillors following the resolution of Council in December 2018, set out in this report.

**This report is public**

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

- (1) **That the basic allowance for Councillors be increased by 2.75%, in line with the pay award to employees of 2.75%, backdated to 1 April 2020. This is in accordance with the resolution made by Council following the last review of the Councillors' Allowances Scheme in 2018/19.**

#### **1.0 Background**

- 1.1 As is required before each four-year election cycle, the Independent Remuneration Panel carried out a full review of the Councillors Allowances Scheme in 2018/19.
- 1.2 The IRP presented its report to Council on 19 December 2018 and made a number of recommendations, including that:
- c) The basic allowance be increased, year on year, in line with Employee Pay Awards, unless Council votes against an increase.

Council approved this recommendation and the revised allowances scheme came into effect in May 2019 following the elections.

#### **2.0 Employee's Pay Award**

- 2.1 The Pay Award for Employees for 2020/2021 was settled at the beginning of September. A pay increase of 2.75% has been awarded, backdated to 1 April 2020.
- 2.2 In line with the resolution of Council in 2018, the basic allowance for Councillors, which is currently £3,628.53 per annum, should also be increased by 2.75% to £3,728.31 per annum. However, the resolution is qualified by the words "unless Council votes against an increase". This report

is therefore brought to Councillors to provide an opportunity to vote on the matter.

### **3.0 Conclusion**

- 3.1 Members are asked to take a vote on the proposed 2.75% increase to the basic allowance.

<b>CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT</b> (including Health & Safety, Equality & Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)	
None directly arising from this report.	
<b>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS</b>	
There are no legal implications arising from this report. The Independent Remuneration Panel made its recommendations in 2018, as set out in the report.	
<b>FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS</b>	
Provision has been made in the budget for an increase in the basic allowance to Councillors in line with the pay award to employees. The cost of this in 2020/21 is approximately £6,000.	
<b>OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>	
<b>Human Resources, Information Services, Property and Open Spaces:</b> None	
<b>SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS</b>	
The Section 151 Officer has been consulted and has no comments.	
<b>MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS</b>	
The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no comments.	
<b>BACKGROUND PAPERS</b>	<b>Contact Officer:</b> Debbie Chambers <b>Telephone:</b> 01524 582057 <b>E-mail:</b> dchambers@lancaster.gov.uk
None	