

Councillors' Allowances Scheme: Review 24 February 2021

Report of the Head of Democratic Services

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To present the report and recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP), which Council must give due regard to in setting its Councillors' Allowances Scheme from May 2021.

This report is public.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) That the report and recommendations of the IRP be taken into consideration regarding the Councillors' Allowances Scheme, noting that any changes Council chooses to make to its Scheme would come into effect from 1st May 2021**

The IRPs recommendations are set out in full in the Panel's report and the summary of recommendations is shown below:

With regard to the Basic Allowance:

- (1) 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.***

With regard to Special Responsibility Allowances:

- (2) That the figure of £4,370.70 per annum be recommended to Council as the appropriate allowance for the Licensing Committee Chair;***
- (3) That £1,000pa be allocated for SRAs for the Council's Champions to be divided equally between serving Champions up to a cap of £250 each Champion per annum; and***
- (4) That all SRAs be reassessed during the full review in 2022/23.***

With regard to Travel Allowances:

(5) That no change be made to the arrangements for travel outside the district and that Councillors be encouraged to use public transport wherever possible.

(6) That the list of approved duties remain as it is currently, without the addition of Champion's duties.

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 a light touch review, 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. The methodology and findings are set out in the report.

3.0 Conclusion

- 3.1 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 2021.

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT (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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FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The recommendations of the IRP, if approved, would result in a minimal increase to Councillors allowances in 2021/22 of £250.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The relevant regulation is set out in the IRP's report.

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Section 151 Officer has been consulted and has no comments.

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no comments.
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BACKGROUND PAPERS

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