

**Councillors' Allowances Scheme: Review
11 December 2024**

Senior Manager, Democratic Support and Elections

PURPOSE OF REPORT

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

This report is public.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council reviews its Councillors' Allowances Scheme and, in doing so, considers the attached report and recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP). The IRPs recommendations for amendments to the scheme are as follows:

With regard to allowances:

- (1) That the Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances (including the Mayor/Deputy Mayor allowances) be increased by 2.5% with effect from 6 April 2025.***

With regard to Travel and Subsistence Allowances:

- (2) No change is recommended to the Travel Allowances. The current levels of mileage allowance are in line with HMRC guidelines.***
- (3) That subsistence allowances will be considered during the next full review of the Scheme, due to be carried out prior to the 2027 elections.***

Regarding Dependents Carers Allowance:

- (4) To reconfirm that the Dependents Carers Allowance should allow for reimbursement of up to a maximum of the Real Living Wage as determined by the Living Wage Foundation (currently £12.60 per hour).***

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 A full review is carried out every four years prior to elections. In the years between elections the IRP carries out 'light touch' reviews, taking into account any matters raised by Councillors and reviewing the rates of remuneration. Full details are in the IRP's report attached.

3.0 Conclusion

- 3.1 Members are requested to have regard to the report of the IRP when setting a scheme for Members' Allowances.

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.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The cost implications of the IRP's recommendations are set out in the Panel's report.

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.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Contact Officer: Debbie Chambers
Telephone: 01524 582057
E-mail: dchambers@lancaster.gov.uk