

Councillors' Allowances Scheme 2021/22

Purpose

- 1.1 Council is required to set a Councillors' Allowances Scheme for 2021/22, which provides for payment of basic allowance and special responsibility allowances to councillors.
- 1.2 In setting a scheme of allowances, Council must have regard to the recommendations of an Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP). A full report of the IRP was last considered in May 2018.
- 1.3 The IRP met several times in Autumn 2020 and is currently preparing a set of recommendations for Council to consider. Further to consultation with the Chair, additional work is required to develop the report and provide Council with a comprehensive basis on which to base any future decisions.
- 1.4 It is therefore proposed that the existing Councillors' Allowances Scheme is extended until such time as the IRP is ready to present its recommendations to Council. A draft Scheme containing only consequential amendments to the previous version is attached at Appendix 1 for approval.

Recommendations

- 2.1 To approve the Councillors' Allowances Scheme as set out at Appendix 1, to take effect from 1 April 2021.
- 2.2 To note that the Independent Remuneration Panel is preparing a report to Council and to receive its recommendations in due course.

Reasons

- 3.1 The Council is statutorily required to set a Members' Allowances Scheme under the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances)(England) regulations 2003.

Supporting information

- 4.1 Following the conclusion of the Council's governance review in January 2020, Council requested that the IRP revisit the recommendations it last made to Council in May 2018, in respect of councillors' allowances and expenses.

- 4.2 The IRP has been undertaking a comprehensive review of the Councillors' Allowances Scheme since August 2020. Having received evidence from councillors and other stakeholders throughout recent months, a report and recommendations are currently being prepared.
- 4.3 Statute requires that Council has regard to the recommendations made by the IRP before it amends any part of the Members' Allowances Scheme. As no changes are proposed to the scheme in order to extend it for the 2021/22 financial year, a report of the IRP is not required at this stage.

Public/stakeholder engagement

- 5.1 The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) regulations 2003 require councils to have regard to the recommendations of an Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) when setting a scheme of allowances.
- 5.2 The Chair of the IRP, Mr Narinder Sharma, has been consulted and is in support of the recommendation to extend the existing scheme, subject to receipt of the recommendations of the IRP by Council at a future meeting.

Other options

- 6.1 None.

Financial and value for money issues

- 7.1 The previous Members' Allowances Scheme was agreed by Council on 26 February 2020; only consequential changes are proposed to the proposed scheme attached at Appendix 1.

Any future recommendations of the IRP, if accepted, may have budgetary implications. These will be presented in a future report to Council.

Legal implications

- 8.1 None directly arising.

Climate implications

- 9.1 None.

Other significant implications

- 10.1 None directly arising.

This report has been approved by the following people:

Role	Name	Date of sign-off
Legal		
Finance		
Service Director(s)	Emily Feenan, Director of Legal, Procurement and Democratic Services	12 February 2021
Report sponsor	Simon Riley, Strategic Director of Corporate Resources	14 February 2021
Other(s)		
Background papers:	None.	
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 – Draft Councillors’ Allowances Scheme 2021-22	