Summary of Recommendations

The Independent Remuneration Panel makes the following recommendations to Council in respect of Councillors' Allowances and Expenses:

- 1. To recommend that the Basic Allowance is increased to £11,523 per annum.
- 2. To recommend that an index link is adopted so that the Basic Allowance increases in line with the Local Government Pay Award in the 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25 financial years.
- 3. To recommend that the Special Responsibility Allowance for the Leader of the Council is increased to £34,569 per annum and that all SRAs are increased on a pro-rata basis as detailed at Figure 10 of this report.
- 4. To recommend that an index link is adopted so that Special Responsibility Allowances increase in line with the Local Government Pay Award in the 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25 financial years.
- 5. To recommend that the Independent Remuneration Panel conduct a further review of the relativity of Special Responsibility Allowances during the 2021/22 municipal year, pro-rated against the Leader's allowance established at recommendation three.
- 6. To recommend that the rates payable for travel expenses are amended to ensure consistency with equivalent entitlements for Derby City Council employees.
- 7. To recommend that the Councillors' Allowances and Expenses Scheme is amended to give effect to the seven component recommendations in respect of Dependent Carers Allowance.
- 8. To recommend that Council request the introduction of a Parental and Carers' Leave policy for councillors at the earliest opportunity.
- 9. To recommend that annual summaries of the amounts claimed for Dependent Carers Allowance are reported separately to all other allowances and expenses.
- 10. To recommend that the Council undertakes a cross-party communications initiative to highlight the valuable role of elected councillors and to encourage residents from all backgrounds to consider standing as candidates.
- 11. To recommend that the Councillors' Allowances Scheme be amended to provide discretion for SRAs to be withheld in circumstances where mandatory training has not been completed within a reasonable timescale, as detailed in the report.
- 12. To recommend that the payment of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor's purse is openly and transparently reported alongside the annual summaries of councillor allowances and expenses; and, that a process is introduced for payments from the purse to be drawn down and receipted, as expenses are incurred, following the payment of an initial lump sum.
- 13. To recommend that an annual bursary of £750 is introduced for the Deputy Youth Mayor, to accompany the existing £1000 bursary received by the Youth Mayor.