

City Council - 19 July 2021

Report of the Leader of the Council

Members' Allowances Scheme – Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel

1 Summary

- 1.1 In order to pay allowances to councillors, all local authorities must have an agreed Members' Allowances Scheme outlining the levels of allowances available to all councillors and the roles that attract an additional allowance. The Members' Allowances Scheme forms part of the Council's Constitution.
- 1.2 Council is responsible for agreeing the Members' Allowances Scheme but before any changes can be made regulations require Council to seek, and have regard to, the views of an Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP).
- 1.3 The IRP met during May 2021 and a copy of their report dated July 2021 is attached as Appendix A to this report. A summary of their recommendations will be published in a newspaper circulating in Nottingham as required by regulations.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the recommendations of the IRP are adopted in full.
- 2.2 The revised Members' Allowances Scheme, incorporating the amendments recommended by the IRP, is adopted with immediate effect.
- 2.3 That the Constitution is amended accordingly.

3 Reasons for recommendations

- 3.1 The Council is required to consider and respond appropriately to the view of the IRP.

4 Other options considered in making recommendations

- 4.1 The City Council is required to consider the IRP's recommendations, but it is not bound to adopt them and can, provided it acts reasonably, take decisions on allowances which are not in accord with the recommendations.

5 Background (including outcomes of consultation)

- 5.1 The IRP met on three occasions during May 2021. They received written and oral representations from the Labour and Conservative Group Leaders, and a written representation from the Nottingham Independents Group Leader, along with comparative information from other Core Cities.
- 5.2 The Panel considered and made recommendations on the following:
 - (a) indexation of the Members' Allowances Scheme;
 - (b) the current banding structure for Special Responsibility Allowances;
 - (c) the inclusion of a Parental Leave Policy;
 - (d) the role of Area Committee Chair;
 - (e) the Special Responsibility Allowances for the Chair of Audit Committee and the Lord Mayor;

- (f) clarification on the term of office for the Lord Mayor, Sheriff and Leader;
- (g) the criteria for civic expense claims;
- (h) the travel allowance in relation to car parking charges and tax travel.

6 Finance colleague comments (including implications and value for money)

- 6.1 The base budget for Basic Allowances and Special Responsibility Allowances for 2021/22 is **£1.185m**. The base budget includes an ongoing annual saving of **£0.047m** for a reduction of Area Committees and associated Members allowance budgets as approved as part of the 2021/22 Budget by Full Council in March 2021. The recommendations in this report are aligned to the base budget assumptions and won't result in any budgetary pressure.

Jo Worster - Team Leader Strategic Finance 21 June 2021

7 Legal and Procurement colleague comments (including risk management issues, and legal, Crime and Disorder Act and procurement implications)

- 7.1 The City Council has a duty to consider the recommendations of the IRP before adopting or amending its Scheme of Allowances.
- 7.2 Public and press notice of the report of the IRP will be given in accordance with legal requirements.

8 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

- 8.1 Has the equality impact of the proposals in this report been assessed?

No



An EIA is not required because this report contains not changes to policy.

9 List of background papers other than published works or those disclosing confidential or exempt information

- 9.1 None.

10 Published documents referred to in compiling this report

- 10.1 Previous reports of the IRP.
- 10.2 Part 7 (Members' Allowances Scheme) of Nottingham City Council's Constitution.
- 10.3 Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003.

Councillor David Mellen
Leader of the Council