

# City Council – 9 January 2023

## Report of the Leader of the Council

### Corporate Director/Director:

Director of Legal and Governance

### Report Author and Contact Details:

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### Title: Members' Allowances Scheme – Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel

#### Does the report form part of the Budget or Policy Framework?

Yes  No

#### Does this report contain any information that is exempt from publication?

No

#### Relevant Council Plan Key Outcome:

Clean and Connected Communities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Keeping Nottingham Working	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carbon Neutral by 2028	<input type="checkbox"/>
Safer Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child-Friendly Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Healthy and Inclusive	<input type="checkbox"/>
Keeping Nottingham Moving	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improve the City Centre	<input type="checkbox"/>
Better Housing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Financial Stability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Serving People Well	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

## 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 one of the Council's Governance Framework Documents which support 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 December 2022 and a copy of their report dated January 2023 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 That a revised Members' Allowances Scheme, incorporating the amendments recommended by the IRP, is adopted with immediate effect.

2.3 That the published Governance Framework Document 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. Consideration of Risk**

5.1 Not applicable.

### **6. Best Value Considerations**

6.1 Not applicable.

### **7. Background (including outcomes of consultation)**

7.1 The IRP met on 15 December 2022 to consider indexation of the Members' Allowances Scheme.

7.2 The indexation period previously recommended and accepted by Council has not expired, but the Panel was convened as the increase to Local Government Employees' Pay for 2022/23 is a flat cash sum of £1,925, so does not follow the usual percentage increase format referenced in the Scheme.

7.3 The Panel made a number of recommendations in relation to indexation, which are detailed in the attached report.

### **8. Finance colleague comments (including implications and value for money)**

8.1 The 2022/23 Budget was approved by Full Council in March 2022 and this assumed 2% pay inflation for both employees and Councillor allowances for 2022/23. The 2022/23 budget was set prior to the current period of high inflation and the impacts of this have been reflected in budget monitoring reports to Executive Board in September and December 2022.

8.2 The recommendations in this report result in a c£40k pressure for the 2022/23 budget and this will be need to be included in the latest budget monitoring forecasts for 2022/23.

Jo Worster – Team Leader Strategic Finance 19 December 2022

**9. Legal colleague comments**

9.1 Under the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 the City Council has a duty to consider the recommendations of the IRP before adopting or amending its Scheme of Allowances.

9.2 Public and press notice of the report of the IRP will be given in accordance with legal requirements

Beth Brown – Head of Legal, 22 December 2022

**10. Other relevant comments**

10.1 Not applicable.

**11. Crime and Disorder Implications (If Applicable)**

11.1 Not applicable.

**12. Social value considerations (If Applicable)**

12.1 Not applicable.

**13. Regard to the NHS Constitution (If Applicable)**

13.1 Not applicable.

**14. Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)**

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

No



An EIA is not required because the report and recommendation does not relate to a new or changing policy or service.

**15. Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)**

15.1 Has the data protection impact of the proposals in this report been assessed?

No



A DPIA is not required because there are no data protection implications associated with the report and recommendations.

**16. Carbon Impact Assessment (CIA)**

16.1 Has the carbon impact of the proposals in this report been assessed?

No



A CIA is not required because there are no carbon implications associated with the report and recommendations.

**17. List of background papers relied upon in writing this report (not including published documents or confidential or exempt information)**

17.1 None.

**18. Published documents referred to in this report**

18.1 Previous reports of the IRP.

18.2 Governance Framework Document C (Members' Allowances Scheme) of Nottingham City Council's Constitution.

18.3 Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003.

**Councillor David Mellen**  
**Leader of the Council**