

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

MEMBERS ALLOWANCES SCHEME – REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

Purpose of the Report

1. To consider the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel on the Nottinghamshire Members' Allowances Scheme.

Information and Advice

2. Under the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 before a council makes or revises a members allowances scheme it is required to have regard to a report from an Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP).
3. At its meeting of 12 January 2017, the Council appointed Sir Rodney Brooke CBE DL as Chair of the IRP and Stephen Bray, Charles Daybell and Madi Sharma as the IRP members.
4. The IRP met on 26th and 27th June 2017 and considered representations made by Councillors in person and in writing. The IRP's report is attached as an Appendix.
5. In summary the report recommends the following:
 - That the basic allowance remains unchanged and is automatically uprated linked to headline staff pay awards.
 - That Special Responsibility Allowances (SRAs) continue to be based on a proportion of the Leader's allowance which should remain unchanged. SRAs will also be uprated automatically in line with headline staff pay awards.
 - That all Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs receive allowances consistent with those previously agreed for Band A committees.
 - That the threshold for Smaller Minority groups to qualify for an SRA be amended and set at 5 Members rather than 10% of the Council and that the Deputy Leader of such groups receives an allowance.
 - That an allowance should be payable to the Chairman of the Police and Crime Panel (PCP) when the role is undertaken by a County Councillor. The Panel also suggested that the Council considers paying any independent Chairman as the Host Authority - see Paragraph 6.
 - To bring the Maternity, Paternity and Adoption leave provisions for members more in line with Staff terms and conditions.
 - To increase the maximum amount allowable for child care to £7.50 per hour on production of receipts.

- To increase the maximum amount payable for adult care dependents to £15.49 per hour on production of receipts.
 - To agree a revised list of Approved Duties for travel claim purposes.
 - That all other allowances including Main Opposition spokespersons, the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Council, Business Managers, Leader of the Main opposition group remain unchanged.
6. With regard to the PCP, the current Chair is Christine Goldstraw OBE who is one of the Independent, non-Councillor members. The IRP's recommendation is that if the Chair is filled by a County Councillor an allowance should be payable. They further suggested that on the grounds of fairness and to ensure the continued smooth running of the PCP, the County Council should consider paying an SRA at the same rate (£3,952 for 2017/18) to any Independent member of the Panel when they held the position of Chairman .The Council is therefore asked to agree a recommendation to that effect.

Other Options Considered

7. Council is not obliged to agree the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel.

Reason for Recommendations

8. To consider the recommendations of the IRP and agree a revised Member's Allowances Scheme for Nottinghamshire County Council.

Statutory and Policy Implications

9. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

10. The cost of the previous scheme if all available allowances had been claimed at the full allowance payable for 2016-17 was £719,472. The equivalent total cost for 2017-18 is £571,576.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) That the recommendations of the IRP be noted.
- 2) That the proposed revised Councillors' Allowances Scheme, as detailed in Appendix 2 to the IRP report, be approved.
- 3) That an SRA be paid to the Chair of the Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Panel when held by an Independent Member on the Panel at the same rate as that which a County Councillor undertaking the role would be paid.

Anthony May
Chief Executive

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Constitutional Comments (SLB 04/07/2017)

11. The function of adopting and revising the scheme of allowances for Members is reserved to Full Council by law. As stated in the report, Council is required to have regard to the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel.

Financial Comments (SES 04/07/17)

12. The financial implications are set out in the report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- 'Issues to Address' report to the IRP.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All