

## **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 and approval of the proposed revised Members' Allowances Scheme.

#### **Information**

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 the Governance and Ethics Committee meeting of 6 January 2021, the Council reappointed 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 18 June and 24 June 2021 and considered representations made by Councillors in person and in writing (via an electronic survey). The IRP's report is appended to this report. A public notice has been published to inform constituents of the report and its availability for inspection, including via the Council's website. A further public notice will be published following Full Council's consideration of the report and approval of the Members Allowances Scheme.
5. In summary the report recommends the following:
  - That the basic allowance remains unchanged, is automatically uprated linked to headline staff pay awards and is backdated to the first date of the current term of office (10 May 2021).
  - That Special Responsibility Allowances (SRAs) continue to be based on a proportion of the Leader's allowance.
  - That the Leader's allowance should remain unchanged, as should the allowances for the Leaders of the Main Minority Group and the Minority Group.
  - That SRAs should also be uprated automatically in line with headline staff pay awards and backdated to 10 May 2021 (27 May 2021 for Chairman and Vice-

Chairman of the County Council) and that no more than one SRA can be claimed by any one Councillor.

- That all SRAs should remain at the current level other than for the following roles:-
  - Deputy Leader of the Main Minority Group - increase from 22% of the Leader's SRA to 24%, to give parity with the allowance paid to the Main Minority Group Business Manager;
  - Minority Group Deputy Leader and Group Business Manager - increase from 4% to 12% to give essentially half of what the allowance is for the equivalent posts in the Main Minority Group.
- That a limit to the number of opposition spokesperson roles be introduced linked to the number of committees for which the Chairman receives an SRA (50% for the Main Minority Group and 20% for the Minority Group, rounded down to the nearest spokesperson role).
- That the list of duties designated as Approved Duties (Travelling and Subsistence Allowances) for travel claim purposes should remain unchanged, albeit with some minor clarifications made to Schedule 2 of the Scheme.
- That the Scheme be further amended to delete the 'rounding up to £3 rule', to include an electric vehicle mileage rate and to formalise the arrangements for Education Appeal panel members to recoup printing costs.
- That the maximum amount payable for child care should remain at £7.50 per hour per child and the dependants' carers' allowances be increased to £18.76 per hour (with the Monitoring Officer having authority, in consultation with the Chairman of Governance and Ethics Committee to increase this in line with inflation or exceed the limit in exceptional circumstances).
- That the Statutory Co-optees allowance should remain at £639 and be automatically updated linked to headline staff pay awards.
- That the Council should consider paying an allowance for the Independent Persons, in line with the amount paid to Statutory Co-optees.

### **Other Options Considered**

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

### **Reason for Recommendations**

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

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

8. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment 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**

9. Under the proposals, the annual total cost of the Basic Members Allowances remains unchanged at £990,990 (not including National Insurance Contributions). The total amount of SRAs claimable in 2020-21 was £699,477 (it should be noted that not all SRAs were claimed due to the rule of no Councillor claiming more than one SRA). With the recommended changes, the equivalent potential total amount claimable for SRAs would be £698,049.

## **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.

**Anthony May**  
**Chief Executive**

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## **Constitutional Comments (GR – 02/07/2021)**

10. Pursuant to the Nottinghamshire County Council constitution and the statutory framework governing members allowances, this Council has the delegated authority to consider and approve the recommendations contained within this report after having had due regard to its contents.

## **Financial Comments (SES 30/06/2021)**

11. The financial implications are set out in paragraph 9 of the report.
12. Under the proposals, the annual total cost of the Basic Members Allowances remains unchanged at £990,990 (not including National Insurance Contributions). The total amount of SRAs claimable in 2020-21 was £699,477 (it should be noted that not all SRAs were claimed due to the rule of no Councillor claiming more than one SRA). With the recommended changes, the equivalent potential total amount claimable for SRAs would be £698,049.

## **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 for Consideration report to the IRP.

## **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All