

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME – UPDATE REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

Purpose of the Report

1. To consider an update report of the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) on the Nottinghamshire Members' Allowances Scheme, arising from the Eastwood by election of 3 November 2022 and proposed changes relating to inflationary uprates.
2. To seek approval for an updated version of the Members' Allowances Scheme to incorporate changes arising from these issues.

Information

3. 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 IRP.
4. 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 for the 2021-25 administration.

Changes in Political Balance

5. The IRP last met in April 2022, to mainly consider the implications of the Council's recent change in governance arrangements, with its recommendations agreed by Full Council on 12 May 2022. The existing Allowances Scheme is attached as Appendix A to the IRP's report.
6. At that time, the IRP considered the reduced gap in the number of Group Members between the Main Minority Group (Labour) and the smaller Minority Group (Independent Alliance). Recognising that there could be a point within the current administration when these two Groups could have an equal number of Members, the IRP sought to future-proof its recommendations.
7. The IRP's report focuses primarily on that issue and is **appended** to this report.

Inflationary Uprate of Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances

8. Also included within the report is the IRP's consideration of the recently announced national Local Government Pay Services Agreement 2022-23. The Council's current Members'

Allowances Scheme has, for a number of years, built in an automatic uprate for Members' allowances in line with the percentage salary increase applicable to staff. However, on this occasion the Agreement results in a uniform set amount award for all staff, rather than a percentage increase, which is not directly applicable to the wording of the Scheme.

9. A number of Councils are seeking a view from their IRPs on this matter and therefore the IRP here has considered the issue and made a recommendation, which is subject to any further clarification nationally.
10. Attached as appendices to the IRP's report are the existing scheme and an updated version highlighting the proposed changes.
11. 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.

Other Options Considered

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

Reason for Recommendations

13. To consider the recommendations of the IRP and agree a revised Member's Allowances Scheme for Nottinghamshire County Council in light of the recent change in the political balance at the Council following the Eastwood by-election of 3 November 2022 and the recently announced national Local Government Pay Services Agreement 2022-23.

Statutory and Policy Implications

14. 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

15. As the Council had previously agreed the IRP's recommendation that any changes arising from a change in the balance of the Opposition Groups should be contained within the same cost envelope of the allowances currently paid to Opposition members, there is no financial impact arising from those proposed changes.
16. The financial implications of the level of inflationary uprate proposed are detailed within the IRP's report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) That the recommendations of the IRP be noted.
- 2) That the proposed revised Members' Allowances Scheme, included as Appendix B to the IRP report, be approved.

Adrian Smith
Chief Executive

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Constitutional Comments (CEH 14/11/2022)

17. Full Council is the appropriate body to consider the content of the report.

Financial Comments (SES 15/11/2022)

18. The financial implications are set out in paragraphs 15 & 16 of the report and are detailed in the attached appendix.

19. The costs of the redistribution of SRAs will be met within the existing budgetary provision.

20. The costs of the 4.04% increase in Members' Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances will be met by additional budgetary allocations.

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.

- Members' Allowances Scheme – Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel report to Full Council – 12 May 2022 (published)

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All