

REPORT OF Chief Executive
To: Full Council
Subject: Councillor Allowances
Date: 26 April 2021

Reference:

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

For Members to consider the response of the Independent Remuneration Panel regarding Councillor Allowances

1. INTRODUCTION

Members will recall that at the Full Council meeting on the 27 January 2020 that they considered the report from the Independent Remuneration Panel regarding Councillor Allowances.

2. REPORT

Full Council agreed to adopt the majority of the recommendations from the Independent Remuneration Panel but requested that they revisit a couple of points.

The original report from the Independent Remuneration Panel is attached at Appendix 1 for Members information.

It was also acknowledged that the role of Chair of Standards was omitted from the original Independent Panel report and the panel was asked to consider this as well.

Below is an extract from the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 27 January 2020:

Resolved:

That the following recommendations be adopted:

- a. The Basic Allowance become 'fully inclusive' and set at £5,100
- b. The Allowance should be updated annually on the basis of any percentage increase agreed for NJC Local Government Staff.
- c. Members should only be entitled to claim one SRA and less than 50% of roles should attract a SRA;



- d. The Leader's Allowance should be set at 2.35 x the Basic Allowance at £11,985
- e. The Deputy Leader's Allowance should be set at 1x the Basic Allowance at £5,100
- f. The Chairs of Council, Community and Resources, Overview and Scrutiny (internal and external) and Chair of Plans should be set at 1x the Basic Allowance at £5,100
- g. The Chairs of Audit and Governance and Licensing should be set at 0.5 x the Basic Allowance at £2,550
- h. The balance between Chairing roles and the level of responsibility and accountability to be reviewed in more detail in the future
- k. Carers Allowance: cost of care will be reimbursed, up to a maximum level of the national Living Wage currently £8.21 ph. The Carers allowance be subject to more detailed review in future Panel deliberations which might also look at policies on parental leave which some Councils are considering.
- l. Travel and Subsistence to continue on the current arrangements in line with the officers Travel and Subsistence scheme

That the following recommendations be referred back to the Panel for further review:

- i) Vice Chairs Community Resources; Overview and Scrutiny (internal and external); Plans; Audit and Governance and Vice Chair of Licensing should not receive an allowance, but the expectation would be that Chairs would share their allowances if they were asking the Vice to step into the role regularly
- j) The Chairs and Vice Chairs and to include Lead Member roles be fully reviewed in future deliberations by the Panel

The Panel have now been able to review their report and have provided the following update:

- Chair of Standards - The post previously attracted an allowance £658.50 or just over 0.14x the Basic. We recommend it be set at **1.4 times the new Basic ie £714**
- Vice Chairs – The panel were not convinced that the roles were much more onerous than that of a 'normal' committee member and there was no new evidence to the contrary and the panel decided to stick to their previous recommendation to remove these allowances. The panel also said that they would like to look at this in more detail at the next review.
- Lead Members – The panel felt that the case hasn't been made for Lead Members to receive a special responsibility allowance but would look at these roles in more detail at their next review

3. IMPLICATIONS

Legal Implications

This report is in compliance with The Local Government Act 2000 and The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003



Financial Implications
Contained in the report

Human Resources Implications
None

Sustainability/Biodiversity Implications
None

Equality/Diversity
Carer's allowance covered in the report

Risk Management
Not applicable

Compliance with Policies and Strategies
This report is in compliance with the Council's Constitution

Data Protection (GDPR) Implications
Not applicable

Climate Change
Not applicable

4. CONCLUSIONS

The Independent Remuneration Panel have reconsidered their report as requested by Full Council on the 27 January 2020 and have provided Members with an update.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

For Members to consider whether they want to adopt the recommendations from the Independent Remuneration Panel:

- a. That the Chair of the Standards Committee special remuneration be set **at 1.4 times the new Basic - £714**
- b. That Vice Chairs of Committees should not receive an allowance, but the expectation would be that Chairs would share their allowances if they were asking the Vice to step into the role regularly
- c. The Chairs and Vice Chairs roles to be fully reviewed in future deliberations by the Panel
- d. That Lead Members should not receive an allowance
- e. The Lead Member roles to be fully reviewed in future deliberations by the Panel

