

## Members' Allowances Scheme 2023/24, (Mario Leo, Law and Governance)

### Synopsis of report:

This report seeks agreement on the updated Members' Allowances Scheme, which includes the previously agreed annual increment, for the 2023/24 municipal year.

### Recommendation(s):

To recommend to the Council that:

1. The 2022/23 Members' Allowances Scheme be withdrawn with an end date of 16 May 2023 inclusive.
2. An updated Members' Allowances Scheme (as attached at appendix 1), to incorporate a 3% uplift with the basic allowance and special responsibility allowances, be agreed with an implementation date of 17 May 2023 inclusive.

## 1. Context and background of report

- 1.1 The current Members' Allowances Scheme was adopted by the Council on 3 March 2022, following a review of the previous scheme by the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) and subsequent consideration by the Corporate Management Committee.
- 1.2 The current structure of the scheme was agreed for a period of three years, with a mechanism included to provide annual uplifts linked to the staff pay award for the 2023/24 and 2024/25 municipal years.
- 1.3 Whilst the staff pay award includes a lump sum this is a one off payment to reflect rises in the cost of living. The allowance that Members receive is not a salary or remuneration but rather a sum of money to acknowledge part of the voluntary time they devote to being a Councillor. Given the distinction between the payment of a salary and the payment of an allowance the increase to the Members Allowances merely mirrors the percentage increase to the basic salary of staff.

## 2. Report and, where applicable, options considered and recommended

- 2.1 Various options relating to the Members' Allowances Scheme were considered as part of the IRP reporting process. These considerations are detailed in the report considered by the Corporate Management Committee on 24 February 2022.

## 3. Policy framework implications

- 3.1 The Members' Allowances Scheme is published as part of the Council's Constitution. The scheme that is agreed for the 2023/24 municipal year will be incorporated into the Constitution as part of the annual review.

## 4. Resource implications/Value for Money (where applicable)

4.1 The budget agreed by Council on 9 February 2023 included a provision for a 3% uplift in the basic allowance and special responsibility allowances.

4.2 The cost of advertising the allowances scheme in accordance with statutory requirements will be met from existing budgets.

## 5. **Legal implications**

5.1 Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 provide the statutory framework governing members' allowances.

5.2 The 2003 Regulations place certain duties on local authorities in connection with publicising the recommendations made by the Independent Remuneration Panel, the scheme of allowances adopted and the actual allowances paid to Members in any given year. The Regulations also place the responsibility on the local authority to ensure that copies of the Independent Remuneration Panel's report and recommendations are available for inspection at the Council's principal offices at all reasonable times and publish a notice in at least one newspaper circulating in the area. The subsequent guidance to the Regulations, issued jointly by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and the Inland Revenue, urges local authorities to publicise more widely the report from the Independent Remuneration Panel, the scheme of allowances and the sums paid to each councillor with the suggestion that, where possible, this information be published on the Council's website. Supporting information and explanations are also encouraged.

## 6. **Equality implications**

6.1 The allowances are paid to all persons who are elected as councillors and subject to certain qualifying criteria any person can stand to be a councillor.

## 7. **Environmental/Sustainability/Biodiversity implications**

7.1 The proposals contained in this report have no impact on environmental matters.

## 8. **Timetable for Implementation**

8.1 The updated allowances scheme, should it be adopted, will be implemented from 17 May 2023 (annual Council). It will be advertised as soon as is reasonably practicable afterwards, alongside details of the allowances paid in the 2022/23 municipal year.

## 10. **Conclusions**

(To recommend to full Council)

### **Background papers**

## Appendix 1

	<b>2022/23 amount</b>	<b>2023/24 amount</b>
% increase		3
Basic allowance	£5,500.00	£5,665.00
<b>SRAs</b>		
Mayor	£5,184.00	£5,340.00
Deputy Mayor	£1,396.00	£1,438.00
Leader	£11,000.00	£11,330.00
Deputy Leader	£5,500.00	£5,665.00
Group leaders (per member)	£425.00	£438.00
Chairman - Planning	£9,048.00	£9,319.00
Chairman - Corporate Management	£5,184.00	£5,340.00
Chairman - Environment and Sustainability	£5,184.00	£5,340.00
Chairman - Housing	£5,184.00	£5,340.00
Chairman - Community Services	£5,184.00	£5,340.00
Chairman - Overview and Scrutiny Select	£5,184.00	£5,340.00
Chairman - Licensing	£5,184.00	£5,340.00
Chairman - Regulatory	£2,592.00	£2,670.00
Chairman - Standards and Audit	£5,184.00	£5,340.00
Chairman - Englefield Green	£1,296.00	£1,335.00
Vice-Chairman - Planning	£6,024.00	£6,205.00
Vice-Chairman - Corporate Management	£2,592.00	£2,670.00
Vice-Chairman - Environment and Sustainability	£2,592.00	£2,670.00
Vice-Chairman - Housing	£2,592.00	£2,670.00
Vice-Chairman - Community Services	£2,592.00	£2,670.00
Vice-Chairman - Standards and Audit	£2,592.00	£2,670.00
Vice-Chairman - Licensing	£2,592.00	£2,670.00
Vice-Chairman - Overview and Scrutiny Select	£2,592.00	£2,670.00
Vice-Chairman - Regulatory	£1,296.00	£1,335.00
Planning members excl. chairman and vice-chairman	£3,012.00	£3,102.
Corporate Management members	£1,296.00	£1,335.00