

**SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY ALLOWANCES FOR MEMBERS APPOINTED TO THE
GMCA OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Report of the Assistant Director – Legal and Democratic Governance

1. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The report details the recommendations of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) following the receipt of a report detailing the recommendations of the Greater Manchester Independent Remuneration Panel in relation to payments to members of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 1.2 The report of the GMCA and the GM Independent Remuneration Panel is at Appendix 1.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The GM Independent Remuneration Panel met in July 2022 to begin the process of reviewing the remuneration for the members of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The report was completed in November 2022 but not acted upon at that time as it was anticipated that the Levelling Up White Paper would allow GMCA to make payments themselves; but this has yet to occur.
- 2.2 The recommendations of the GMCA's Independent Remuneration Panel are –
 - The IRP recommends that the Members of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee are paid an annual SRA of £3,228.
 - The IRP recommends that the Substitute Members of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee are paid an SRA consisting of two components:
 - A Standing SRA of £536 per year
 - A Variable SRA of £134.52 for every meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and task and finish group attended
 - The IRP recommends that the SRA for the Chair of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee should be £9,684.
 - The IRP recommends that if the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee appoint a Vice Chair then that post holder should receive an SRA of £4,035.
 - The IRP recommends that the SRAs recommended for the Members, Substitutes, Chair and if so appointed a Vice Chair of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee are also annually indexed in accordance with the annual percentage cost of living increase that is applied each year as set by the National Joint Council for Local Government Staff, with the indexation applied at the same time it is applied to the remuneration of the GMCA Elected Mayor and Co-opted Members.

- The Panel further recommended that the SRAs for Members and Chair of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee are backdated to 24 June 2022 or any date thereafter that the GMCA deems is appropriate.

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROPOSED ALLOWANCES

- 3.1 The Greater Manchester Combined Authority met on 16 December 2022 and endorsed the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel.
- 3.2 In the light of the fact the GMCA does not currently have the powers to pay allowances directly, it further requested that each of the 10 Greater Manchester districts consider paying such allowances to members of the GM Overview and Scrutiny Committee themselves with the cost of paying these allowances being reimbursed by the GMCA.
- 3.3 This would need to be achieved through the local adoption of the recommendations of the Panel and agreement to the incorporation of the proposed allowances within each of the 10 districts' members' allowances schemes.
- 3.4 GMCA have further recommended that the SRAs be backdated to 24 June 2022 when the new scrutiny arrangements were put in place in line with the recommendations of the IRP.
- 3.5 It is further recommended that approval be given to the amendment of paragraph 4(4) of Stockport's Members' Allowances Scheme to enable any recipient of an allowance under these arrangements to also receive a second allowance under Stockport's local arrangements. This replicates the position that will arise when the GMCA is able to pay allowances themselves and is consistent with the situation that was previously in place when Stockport paid allowances on behalf of the former Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority and the Transport for Greater Manchester Committee.
- 3.6 Accordingly, it is recommended that the following alteration be made to paragraph 4(4) of Stockport's Members' Allowances Scheme:-

*(4) A Councillor who is a member of the ~~Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority or the Transport for Greater Manchester~~ **Greater Manchester Overview and Scrutiny Committee** may receive two Special Responsibility Allowances under this scheme.*

4. NEXT STEPS

- 4.1 The decision whether to accept the GMCA's recommendation to consider adopting the recommendations of the GM Independent Remuneration panel and pay this additional SRA to members of Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council that are appointed to the GM Oversight and Scrutiny Committee is a decision of the council meeting (which will require a consequential amendment to the constitution by the Monitoring Officer as referred to above) and therefore this report needs to proceed through the full governance process.

5. FINANCIAL AND RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- 5.1 The levelling up bill is still proceeding through parliament and therefore the GMCA does not yet have legislative power to pay allowances directly to the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee members.
- 5.2 Accordingly, it is recommended that the GM Districts consider paying such allowances to their appointees to the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee in the interim and obtain reimbursement from GMCA.

6. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 Governance and legal considerations have been considered in the drafting of this report.

7. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPACT

- 7.1 There are none.

8. EQUALITIES IMPACT

- 8.1 There are none

9. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 9.1 There are none.

10. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 That the Cabinet note the report and recommend that it proceeds through the council's governance process on the basis of the following recommendations (with any amendments or considerations they wish to raise):-

10.1.1 That it be noted that:-

- the GMCA has received and considered a report of its Independent Remuneration Panel on 16 December 2022 detailing a proposed schedule of allowances for members of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee as detailed in paragraph 2.2 of this report.
- the GMCA noted and accepted the recommendations of the GM IRP.
- the GMCA does not currently have the legislative power to pay allowances directly to the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee members pending the passage of the levelling up bill through parliament.

- the GMCA has requested that the GM Districts consider paying the proposed allowances to their appointees on the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee in the interim, subject to reimbursement from the GMCA.
- the GMCA has recommended that the payment of allowances be backdated to 24 June 2022 when the new scrutiny arrangements were put in place.

10.1.2 That approval therefore be given to the adoption and incorporation of the proposed schedule of allowances within Stockport's Members' Allowances Scheme.

10.1.3 That approval be given to the backdating of the payment of any such allowances to 24 June 2022 when the new scrutiny arrangements were put in place.

10.1.4 That paragraph 4(4) of the Members' Allowances Scheme be amended to permit the payment of two SRAs to a member of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

There are none

Anyone wishing to inspect the above background papers or requiring further information should contact Vicki Bates

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