

## Greater Manchester Combined Authority

Date: 16 December 2022

Subject: A review of Special Responsibility Allowances for Members appointed to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Report of: Gillian Duckworth, GMCA Monitoring Officer & Steve Wilson GMCA Treasurer

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### PURPOSE OF REPORT:

To report the recommendations of the GM Independent Remuneration Panel in relation to the remuneration of the Members of the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

The GMCA is requested to:

1. Note and accept the recommendations of the report of the GM Independent Remuneration Panel.
2. Note that 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.
3. Recommend that the GM Districts consider paying such allowances to their appointees to the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee in the interim.

BOLTON  
BURY

MANCHESTER  
OLDHAM

ROCHDALE  
SALFORD

STOCKPORT  
TAMESIDE

TRAFFORD  
WIGAN

4. Request the Treasurer to ensure that appropriate arrangements are put in place with GM Districts to enable the payment of the allowances, subject to reimbursement from the GMCA.
5. Recommend that any SRAs for Members and Chair of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee are set as recommended in the report and are backdated to 24th June 2022 when the new scrutiny arrangements were put in place.

### **CONTACT OFFICERS:**

Gillian Duckworth, Monitoring Officer, GMCA.

Steve Wilson, Treasurer GMCA

**Equalities Impact, Carbon and Sustainability Assessment: N/A**

**Risk Management: N/A**

**Legal Considerations:**

As set out in the report.

**Financial Consequences – Revenue**

**Financial Consequences – Capital**

**Number of attachments to the report: 1**

**Background Papers**

[Independent Review of the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Function](#) – June 2022

**Tracking/ Process**

Does this report relate to a major strategic decision, as set out in the GMCA Constitution

**No**

**Exemption from call in**

Are there any aspects in this report which means it should be considered to be exempt from call in by the relevant Scrutiny Committee on the grounds of urgency? No

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The Greater Manchester Combined Authority Order 2011, as amended by the GMCA (Amendment) Order 2015 and the GMCA (Functions and Amendment) Order 2017 provides for the appointment of a GMCA Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP). At their meeting on 24 February 2017 the GMCA agreed to establish in accordance with relevant statutory provisions, its own Independent Remuneration Panel.
- 1.2 Following consideration of the Independent Review<sup>1</sup> of the GMCA Scrutiny function undertaken by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny at their meeting on the 24 June 2022, the GMCA agreed to re-convene the IRP to consider a special responsibility allowance for members and substitutes of the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

## **2. INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PROCESS**

- 2.1 Membership of the Greater Manchester Independent Remuneration Panel consists of:
- Dr Declan Hall –Independent Chair
  - Clive Memmott – Chamber of Commerce
  - Vicky Knight – UNISON Northwest
- 2.2 The Panel met in July 2022 to begin the process of reviewing the remuneration for the Members of the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee. Their final report was completed in November 2022 but was not considered immediately by the GMCA as it was anticipated that the reference to the payment of allowances to Scrutiny, Audit and PCP Committee members within the Levelling Up White Paper was imminently to become law.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://democracy.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/documents/s21088/4%20Final%20GMCA%20scrutiny%20report%202022.pdf>

2.3 The Panel formally convened to conduct the review and it interviewed members of Scrutiny, members the GMCA and relevant officers. In addition, all Scrutiny members were sent a short questionnaire for those who were unable to meet with the Panel were given the opportunity to make a written submission.

2.4 The Panel wishes to thank those Members and officers who assisted them with their review and submits its recommendations for consideration by the GMCA.

### **3. RENUMERATION PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS**

3.1 The recommendations of the GMCA's Independent Remuneration Panel are –

- a) The IRP recommends that the Members of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee are paid an annual SRA of £3,228.
- b) 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
- c) The IRP recommends that the SRA for the Chair of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee should be £9,684.
- d) 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.
- e) 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.

- f) The Panel further recommends that the recommended SRAs for Members and Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee are backdated to 24<sup>th</sup> June 2022 or any date thereafter than the GMCA deems is appropriate.

**Appendix 1** – full report of the Independent Remuneration Panel – November 2022.