

MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME

Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To consider amendments to the Members' Allowances Scheme following the receipt of the recommendations from the Independent Remuneration Panel.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Independent Remuneration Panel was convened under The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 (SI 1021) to fulfil the Council's obligation to review its Members' Allowances Scheme at least every four years. The Scheme was last reviewed in 2016.
- 2.2 These regulations, which arise out of the relevant provisions in the Local Government Act 2000, require all local authorities to set up and maintain an advisory Independent Remuneration Allowances Panel to review and provide advice on Members' allowances.
- 2.3 All Councils are required to convene their Independent Remuneration Panel and seek its advice before they make any changes or amendments to their Members' Allowances Scheme and is under a duty to 'have regard' to the Panel's recommendations before setting a new or amended Scheme.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PANEL

- 3.1 The Panel has made a number of recommendations which are explained in detail within the Panel's report which is attached at Appendix 1, however a summary of those recommendations is detailed below:-

Basic Allowance

- (i) That a Basic Allowance of £13,286.58 be set.

Special Responsibility Allowances

- (ii) That a Leader of the Council's SRA of £39,859.75 be set being three times the Basic Allowance.
- (iii) That a Deputy Leader of the Council's SRA of £21,922.86 be set, being 55% of the Leader of the Council's SRA.
- (iv) That a Cabinet Member's SRA of £17,936.89 be set being 45% of the Leader of the Council's SRA.
- (v) That a Leader of the Main Opposition SRA of £11,957.92 be set being 30% of the Leader of the Council's SRA at
- (vi) That a Leader of the Smaller Opposition Groups SRA be set at £1,365.53 plus £409.65 per member
- (vii) That in computing the SRA due to the Leaders of the Smaller Opposition Groups, account should be given only to the membership of the Group on the date of the Annual Meeting of the Council for each Municipal Year
- (viii) That a Chair of the Planning and Highways Regulation Committee SRA of £8,171.25 be set being 20.5% of the Leader of the Council's SRA.

- (ix) That a Chair of the Licensing, Environment and Safety Committee SRA of £4,982.47 be set being 12.5% of the Leader of the Council's SRA. That.
- (x) That a Chair of a Licensing Sub-Committee SRA of £3,985.97 be set being 10% of the Leader of the Council's SRA. That.
- (xi) That a Chair of the Scrutiny Committees SRA of £6,329.86 be set being 16.5% of the Leader of the Council's SRA.
- (xii) That a Chair of a Scrutiny Review Panel SRA of £1,395.09 be set being 3.5% of the Leader of the Council's SRA.
- (xiii) That a Chair of the Area Committees SRA of £4,982.47 be set being 12.5% of the Leader of the Council's SRA.
- (xiv) That a Chair of the Audit Committee SRA of £3,985.97 be set being 10% of the Executive Leader's SRA.

Co-optee's Allowances

- (xv) That a Chair of Standards Committee Co-optee Allowance be set at £1,594.39 being 4% of the Leader of the Council's SRA.
- (xvi) That an Independent Member of the Standards Committee Co-optee Allowance be set at £797.19 being 2% of the Leader of the Council's SRA.
- (xvii) That the Co-optee's Allowance be set at £797.19 being 2% of the Leader of the Council's SRA.

Dependent Carers' Allowance

- (xviii) That the existing provision within the scheme as relates to the Dependants' Carers Allowance be maintained and that further publicity be provided to members on how such claims can be made.

Travel and Subsistence Allowance

- (xix) That the existing provision within the scheme as relates to travel and subsistence expenses be maintained and that further publicity be provided to members on how such claims can be made.

ICT Allowance

- (xx) That the ICT Allowance be set at £418.67 per annum..

Annual Adjustment of Allowance Levels

- (xxi) That for the four years commencing with the implementation of the Panel's recommendations, the amount of an allowance payable under this scheme shall be increased by reference to the annual percentage salary increase for local government staff (at spinal column 49) to be implemented from the start of the municipal year for which year it is applicable.

Civic Allowances

- (xxii) That the Mayor's Civic Allowance be set at £13,950.91 being 17.5% of the Leader of the Council's SRA.
- (xxiii) That the Deputy Mayor's Civic Allowance be set at £2,790.18 being 7% of the Leader of the Council's SRA.

Implementation of the Panel's Recommendations

- (xxiv) That the recommendations contained within this report be implemented from the date of the next meeting of the Annual Meeting of the Council.

4. PUBLICITY

- 4.1 The Council must, upon receipt of a report of an Independent Remuneration Panel, make arrangements for it to be available for public inspection. A public notice must also be published in a local newspaper stating that the Council has received the report and specifying the main features of the Panel's recommendations.
- 4.2 Once the Council has made and adopted a Members' Allowances Scheme, it must publish a further notice to that effect.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 The Council Meeting is recommended to:-
- (i) have regard to the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel; and
 - (ii) request that the Assistant Director for Governance make the necessary amendments to the Members' Allowances Scheme to incorporate any amendments approved by the Council Meeting within the Members' Allowances Scheme.
- 5.2 That the Assistant Director for Governance publish the necessary public notices to give effect to any revisions to the Members' Allowances Scheme.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

Anyone wishing to inspect the background papers or discuss this report should contact Damian Eaton on 0161 474 3207, damian.eaton@stockport.gov.uk