

Summary Sheet

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Cabinet and Commissioners' Decision Making Meeting – 11 December 2017

Report Title

Members' Allowances – Restoration of Entitlement to Full Payment of Special Responsibility Allowances

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?

Yes

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Shokat Lal, Assistant Chief Executive

Report Author(s)

James McLaughlin, Democratic Services Manager
01709 822477 or james.mclaughlin@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

All

Summary

Following the further restoration of decision making powers to the Council in September 2017, all executive functions have been returned to the Cabinet with the exception of children's social care, which is subject to a separate intervention regime.

This report proposes that the Lead Commissioner agree that the full payment of special responsibility allowances to Cabinet Members be restored with effect from the date that powers were returned to the Council on 12 September 2017.

Recommendations

That Council be recommended to consider approval of the restoration of entitlement to 100% of the special responsibility allowance for the Leader of the Council, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Members, in accordance with the Member Allowances Scheme, with effect from 12 September 2017.

List of Appendices Included

None

Background Papers

None

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel
No

Council Approval Required
No

Exempt from the Press and Public
No

Members' Allowances – Restoration of Entitlement to Full Payment of Special Responsibility Allowances

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 That Council be recommended to consider approval of the restoration of entitlement to 100% of the special responsibility allowance for the Leader of the Council, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Members, in accordance with the Member Allowances Scheme, with effect from 12 September 2017.

2. Background

- 2.1 Following the government intervention and appointment of Commissioners to exercise executive decision making powers in February 2015, the Secretary of State's directions removed the entitlement to special responsibility allowances for Cabinet Members and the Chair of the Licensing Board. In accordance with the directions, the former Lead Commissioner, Sir Derek Myers, determined to set the level of special responsibility allowances paid to then Advisory Cabinet and Chair of Licensing Board at 50% of the full allowance. The rationale for the decision was that the post holders were not exercising decision making responsibilities and therefore the payment of the full allowance was not appropriate.
- 2.2 As powers have been gradually returned since that time the level of allowance has increased commensurately in accordance with the provisions of the Secretary of State's directions. Following the return of some powers in February 2016, the special responsibility allowances for Cabinet Members (including the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council) increased to 80% of the allowance. In December 2016, when the decision making powers for licensing were restored, the special responsibility allowance for Chair of the Licensing Board was returned to 100%. Prior to the return of powers in September 2017, Cabinet Members (including the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council) were in receipt of 90% of the special responsibility allowance.
- 2.3 In July 2017, following a recommendation from the Independent Remuneration Panel, the Council agreed to reduce all Member Allowances by 1.15% to mirror the changes in terms and conditions for staff employed by the Council. The effect of this was to reduce the overall allowances paid and specifically for Cabinet Members:

	Old SRA	New SRA	Difference
Leader of the Council	26,152	25,851	-301
Deputy Leader of the Council	14,383	14,217	-166
Cabinet Members	13,076	12,925	-151

3. Key Issues

- 3.1 On 12 September 2017, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government returned decision making powers for all functions to the Council, other than those for children's social care, which are retained by the Commissioner appointed by the Secretary of State for Education.

4. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 4.1 It is proposed that Cabinet Members receive the full special responsibility allowance under the Members' Allowances Scheme with effect from 12 September 2017. This is recommended on the basis that Cabinet Members are now both responsible and accountable for all but one executive function.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 In the event of this proposal being agreed, the entitlement to the special responsibility allowance for Cabinet Members will be restored to 100% with immediate effect and be backdated to the date that decision making powers were restored to the Council.
- 5.2 Lead Commissioner Ney has been consulted on the recommendation and is in agreement with the proposal.

6. Financial and Procurement Implications

- 6.1 The proposal to return to the full entitlement of the special responsibility allowance is within the agreed budget for Members' Allowances. The total difference between 90% payment and the full allowance is £11,765 if every member of the Cabinet took up their entitlement. The

Role	90% of SRA	Full SRA	Difference
Leader of the Council	£23,266	£25,851	£2,585
Deputy Leader of the Council	£12,795	£14,217	£1,422
Cabinet Member	£11,632	£12,925	£1,293 per Member (£7,758 in total)

- 6.2 There are no additional financial implications associated with this report.

7. Legal Implications

- 7.1 There are no legal implications directly associated with this report.

8. Human Resources Implications

- 8.1 There are no human resources implications associated with this report.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 9.1 There are no implications for children and young people or vulnerable adults associated with this report.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Implications

- 10.1 There are no equalities or human rights implications associated with this report.

11. Implications for Partners and Other Directorates

11.1 There are no implications arising from this report for partners or other directorates within the Council.

12. Risks and Mitigation

12.1 There are no risks associated with the proposal in this report.

13. Accountable Officer(s)

James McLaughlin, Democratic Services Manager

Approvals obtained from:-

	Named Officer	Date
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services		
Assistant Director of Legal Services		
Head of Procurement (if appropriate)		
Head of Human Resources (if appropriate)		

*Report Author: James McLaughlin, Democratic Services Manager
01709 822477 or james.mclaughlin@rotherham.gov.uk*

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