

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Council – 29 November 2023

Report Title

Recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel

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

No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Jo Brown, Assistant Chief Executive

Report Author(s)

Emma Hill, Head of Democratic Services
emma.hill@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

Section 15 of the Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2001 on Members' Allowances, sets out the requirement to have an Independent Remuneration Panel to consider any changes or amendments to the Members' Allowances Scheme every four years.

To comply with the legislation to undertake the required review, the Council must appoint a panel to conduct the review. Upon completion of the review, the panel will report its findings to the Council.

On 18 January 2023, Council noted that the Independent Remuneration Panel was required to be convened to conduct a full review of the Members' Allowances Scheme.

The report outlines the recommendations to Council of the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP).

The Panel makes recommendations to Council on the level of members' allowances and expenses it considers should be paid to members and co-opted members of Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council.

Recommendations

Council is asked:-

1. to consider the report and recommendations of the IRP and determine the details of the Scheme of Members allowances; and
2. to thank the members of the IRP for their detailed consideration of the Scheme and their service on the Panel.

List of Appendices Included

- Appendix 1 Report to RMBC by Independent Remuneration Panel
Appendix 2 Report to RMBC by Independent Remuneration Panel – South Yorkshire
Local Authority Comparison Data
Appendix 3 Summary of current and proposed allowances

Background Papers

Appendix 8 of the Council's Constitution.

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

N/A

Council Approval Required

Yes

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel

1. Background

- 1.1 The regulations and guidance, under Section 15 of the Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2001 on Members' Allowances, sets out the requirement to have an Independent Remuneration Panel to consider any changes or amendments to the Members' Allowances Scheme every four years.
- 1.2 To comply with the legislative requirement to undertake the review, the Council must appoint an Independent Panel. Upon completion of the review the panel will report its findings to the Council.
- 1.3 In accordance with legislation, the Council should pay due regard to the recommendations which have been made to them by the Independent Remuneration Panel. This should form part of the decision-making process when considering any changes or amendments to the Allowances Scheme.
- 1.4 The Independent Remuneration Panel are responsible for making recommendations to Council on:
 - The level of basic allowance to be paid to elected members.
 - The categories of elected Members who should receive a special responsibility allowance and the amount of such an allowance.
 - The level of the carers' allowance.
 - The level of travelling and subsistence allowances.
 - Allowances to be paid to co-opted members of the Council, where applicable.
- 1.5 On 18 January 2023 Council noted that the Independent Remuneration Panel was required to be convened to conduct a full review of the Members' Allowances Scheme.
- 1.6 The panel comprised of:
 - Chief Executive, Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber of Commerce
 - Chief Executive, Voluntary Action Rotherham
 - Vicar of Rotherham and St. Paul's Masbrough
- 1.7 The Panel met on 17, 31 October and 16 November 2023.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 The Panel was convened to consider and review the Council's Members' Allowances Scheme and to recommend to Council, allowances in respect of basic allowances, special responsibility allowances, travel and subsistence allowances, carers' allowances and provisions relating to independent persons, where applicable.
- 2.2 The Panel makes recommendations to Council on the level of members' allowances and expenses it considers should be paid to members and co-opted members of Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 3.1 The Council must have regard to the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel but is not bound by their recommendation.

4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 Members of the Council were given the opportunity to consult with Members of the Independent Remuneration Panel as part of the review.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 The Council is the accountable body for Member Allowances and, if agreed, the recommendations will be implemented immediately after the meeting, backdated to 1 April 2023.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

- 6.1 The existing 2023/24 budget for Members' Allowances is £910,188.
- 6.2 If the Panel's recommendations are accepted this will increase to £955,698.
- 6.3 This increase can be met from the inflation budget for pay and allowances 2023/24.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

- 7.1 The Panel be convened under The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 (SI 1021) (the 2003 Regulations) to make recommendations to the Council on changes or amendments to the scheme of Members' Allowances. These regulations, arising out of the relevant provisions in the Local Government Act 2000, require all local authorities to maintain an independent remuneration panel (also known as an IRP) to review and provide advice on the councils' Members' Allowance Scheme.
- 7.2 All Councils are required to review their Members' Allowances and to do so, must convene their Independent Remuneration Panel to undertake the review. The Council should pay due regard to the Panel's recommendations. This is in the context whereby Full Council retains powers of determination regarding Members' allowances, both levels and scope of remuneration and other allowances/reimbursements.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

- 8.1 There are no human resources implications arising from this report.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 9.1 There are no implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults arising from this report.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

- 10.1 The Council has an obligation to review Member allowances. The allowances reflect the need to ensure that the citizens of Rotherham have the best possible representation by their elected members.
- 10.2 Appendix 8 of the Constitution provides details on the Members' Allowance Scheme which covers all allowances available including those payments available to Members who are protected by the Equality Act including Dependants Carers' Allowance.

11. Implications for CO₂ Emissions and Climate Change

- 11.1 There are no implications for CO₂ Emissions and Climate Change arising from this report.

12. Implications for Partners

- 12.1 There are no implications for Partners arising from this report.

13. Risks and Mitigation

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

Accountable Officer(s)

Emma Hill, Head of Democratic Services

Emma.Hill@rotherham.gov.uk

Approvals obtained on behalf of:

	Name	Date
Chief Executive	Sharon Kemp	21/11/23
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	20/11/23
Assistant Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Bal Nahal	20/11/23
The Strategic Director with responsibility for this report	Jo Brown	17/11/23
Consultation undertaken with the relevant Cabinet Member	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Working and Housing	

Report Author:

Emma Hill, Head of Democratic Services

Emma.Hill@rotherham.gov.uk

This report is published on the Council's [website](#).