

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Council – 18 January 2023

Report Title

Members Allowance Scheme Review – Appointment 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)

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Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

The Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations, 2003 require an Independent Panel to review remuneration and pensions for Elected Members of Local Authorities at least every four years.

The purpose of this report is to note that the Independent Remuneration Panel is required to be convened to review the Members' Allowances Scheme of the Council, with a view to reporting its findings to the Council at a future meeting.

Recommendations

1. That Council notes that the Independent Remuneration Panel is required to be convened to conduct a full review of the Members' Allowances Scheme, with a view to reporting its findings to the Council at a future meeting.
2. That authority is delegated to the Assistant Chief Executive in consultation with the Monitoring Officer to appoint the 3 specific members of the Panel drawn from organisations listed in paragraph 1.4.

List of Appendices Included

None

Background Papers

The Council's Constitution, Appendix 8, Members Allowance Scheme.

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

None

Council Approval Required

Yes

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Members Allowance Scheme Review – Appointment 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 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.
- 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 carer's allowance.
 - The level of travelling and subsistence allowances.
 - Allowances to be paid to co-opted members of the Council, where applicable.
- 1.5 Previously, the Panel has comprised of individuals representing some of the following areas:
 - Chamber of Trade – now known as Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber of Trade
 - Rotherham Health Authority – now known as The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust
 - Rotherham Chamber TEC – No longer in existence, as noted in section 1.5 of the report
 - Regional TUC – No longer in existence, as noted in section 1.5 of the report
 - Vicar of Rotherham
 - College Representative
 - Media Representative
- 1.6 Regarding the Rotherham Chamber of TEC, this organisation is no longer in existence so will be removed from the list of possible organisations from which to choose panel members from.

Regarding the Regional TUC, this organisation is no longer in existence so will be removed from the list of possible organisations from which to choose panel members from.

Regarding the College and Media representatives. If approved representatives could be chosen from the Rotherham College and the Rotherham Advertiser as part of the Regional Media Ltd group.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 The Panel is being 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 will also consider amendments to allowances in line with the Retail Price Index.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 3.1 There are no alternative options to be considered at this stage as there is a legal requirement to conduct a review of Members' Allowances every four years. This review is being carried out to meet that statutory requirement.

4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 Members of the Council will have the opportunity to consider the views and findings of the Independent Remuneration Panel at a future meeting and Council is required to set its Remuneration Scheme annually.
- 4.2 Members of the Independent Remuneration Panel will have the opportunity to consult with individual elected members during the review, as needed.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 The Independent Remuneration Panel will be convened with a view to reporting its finding back to Council at a future meeting.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

- 6.1 The existing budget for Members' Allowances is £921,943 in 2022/23.
- 6.2 The potential implications of any changes to the Members' Allowances budget will need to be considered when the Panel's findings are presented to Council at a future meeting.

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)

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Approvals obtained on behalf of:

	Name	Date
Chief Executive	Sharon Kemp	10/01/23
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	10/01/23
Assistant Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phillip Horsfield	10/01/23
The Strategic Director with responsibility for this report	Jo Brown, Assistant Chief Executive	10/01/23
Consultation undertaken with the relevant Cabinet Member	Leader of the Council - Councillor Read	08/01/23

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