

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL
15 JULY 2019

MEMBERS ALLOWANCES - UPDATE

1. Summary

1.1 This report updates Members on the current level of Members' Allowances after the election and the work of the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) before they report in December 2019. The report also seeks to agree an allowance for the chair of the new Strategic Housing Board.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That the progress of the IRP in undertaking their review is noted.

2.2 That the current level of allowances are noted.

2.3 That a new allowance for the chair of the Strategic Housing Board be agreed in line with the current allowance for the Chair of the Development Control Board.

3. Background and Discussion

3.1. The Independent Remuneration Panel last made recommendations which were considered and agreed by the Council on 14 December 2015 [Min73]. A Members' Allowances Scheme was also agreed at the same meeting which set out allowances for all Members and those with special responsibilities.

3.2. The current IRP is made up of a membership of four as appointed by the Council. Three of the four members were involved in the last review. The IRP has received training from an expert in the area of allowances.

3.3. Members' allowances are allowed to increase by an index each year for a maximum period of four years. The index recommended and accepted by Members for four years from March 2016 was that Member allowances can be increased in line with staff pay awards. However, after the four year period, allowances cannot increase without a further review by the IRP.

3.4. The IRP has commenced its review and aims to report to the GAC in December 2019. The IRP is taking the opportunity to interview experienced and new Members, to understand the current role of Members and how the allowances support their work. The co-operation of all Members with this work is appreciated.

3.5. The IRP will also review schemes and comparative levels of allowances to those at other local authorities.

3.6. The recommendations of the IRP are not binding on the Council but decisions on allowances must be made in relation to the recommendations made.

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- 3.7. The current Members' Allowances Scheme included allowances as at December 2015 as an integral part of the document. The current set of allowances uprated for pay awards as agreed by the Council are shown in appendix A. The next Members' Allowances scheme will be updated with the allowances as an updateable appendix.
- 3.8. At the Annual Council Meeting it was agreed to create a new Strategic Housing Board. Given the importance of this Board to an important Council function, and its intended strategic role, it is recommended that an allowance should be paid to the Chairman of the Board, commensurate with the level of allowance currently paid to the Chairman of the Development Control Board.

This recommendation is made in respect of the previous work carried out by the IRP in recommending the allowance for the Development Control Chairman and noting that the IRP will be making further recommendations as to the remuneration of this special responsibility as part of its report in December.

It is also recommended that this allowance is backdated to the date of appointment on the 22 May 2019.

4. Relationship to the Corporate Plan

Not applicable

Financial, legal, staffing and other implications and risk assessments

Financial Implications	The new allowance can be met within the current Members' Allowances budget
Legal Implications	Members' Allowances are governed by The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003. There is a statutory requirement to set a Members' Allowance Scheme after having regard to a report from an Independent Remuneration Panel.
Staffing Implications	None
Administrative Implications	None
Risk Assessment	No uncertainties and/or constraints

6. Details of Exempt Information Category

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Not applicable

7. Appendices

Appendix A – Current Members' Allowances

None.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

<u>Documents consulted</u>	<u>Date / File Ref</u>	<u>Report Author</u>	<u>Section and Directorate</u>	<u>Exempt Information Category</u>
		Tim Sams (01322) 343148	Financial Services/ Internal Services	N/A