



**Subject: Permission to Undertake a review of the Members' Scheme of Allowances
based upon an Executive Model of Governance**

Report to: Council : Thursday 18 May 2023

Report by: Corporate Services Manager

SUBJECT MATTER

This report is to inform Members that the Council requires an Independent Remuneration Panel to give recommendations on the Members allowances and special responsibility allowances once the Executive Model Constitution has been adopted.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council :

- (1) Agree to the Independent Remuneration Panel being asked to convene to review the Scheme of Members Allowances based upon an Executive Model Constitution for the Council.
- (2) Agree to the re-appointment of the Independent Remuneration Panel Members as follows, Sandra Cox, Karen Forster and Stuart Rimmer
- (3) Agree to the fee of £100 per meeting to be payable to each panel member upon completion of the review.
- (4) Note that any special responsibility allowances for the Executive model would be deferred, until completion of the Independent Remuneration Panel's review.

1. Requirement for Independent Remuneration Panel – Review

- 1.1. Under the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003, every relevant local authority is required to review its Members' Allowances Scheme.
- 1.2. Members will be aware that a full review of the Scheme of Members' Allowances was undertaken in later stages of 2021 and was approved by Full Council at it's meeting on the 9 December 2021.
- 1.3. Whilst undertaking the review, the panel had acknowledged that the Council would potentially move from a Committee form of governance, to a Cabinet model and had therefore commented, that if such a change occurred Government regulations state that the Council should automatically trigger an Independent Remuneration Panel.

2. Next Steps

- 2.1 Once the Council has agreed and adopted an Executive Model Constitution, Council is asked to agree to the convening of the Independent Remuneration Panel to undertake a review of the Members' Allowance Scheme based upon an Executive Model Constitution including special responsibility allowances.
- 2.2 Should Council approve to the re-appointment of the already established Independent Remuneration Panel Members, the panel will be contacted via the Corporate Services Manager and meetings will be arranged. It should be noted that if Member involvement is required than the Panel will ask the Corporate Services Manager to arrange these meetings.
- 2.3 Once the panel have completed their review a report from panel will be brought back to the Council for approval.
- 2.4 Members are asked to note that once the Council has adopted the Executive Model Constitution, any special responsibility allowances for the Executive Model would be deferred, until completion of the Independent Remuneration Panel's review.
- 2.5 The current Members allowance of £6054.00 per annum will be continue to be paid to the newly elected Council whilst the review is being undertaken

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 There are cost implications with fees payable to the Independent Remuneration Panel for the undertaking of a review of allowances, the fees payable should be agreed by Council.
- 3.2 In undertaking a review of allowances, should the panel recommend an increase in allowances, this would have budgetary implications on the approved General fund budget for 2023/24.
- 3.3 The panel will also as part of their review consider if any recommended increases should be backdated.

Areas of consideration: e.g. does this report raise any of the following issues and if so how have these been considered/mitigated against?

Area for consideration	Comment
Monitoring Officer Consultation:	ELT
Section 151 Officer Consultation:	ELT
Existing Council Policies:	N/a
Financial Implications (including VAT and tax):	Included in report
Legal Implications (including human rights):	Included in report
Risk Implications:	N/a