

Meeting of the Full Council
Meeting to be held on Thursday, 28 February 2019

Report submitted by: Head of Legal and Democratic Services

Part A

Electoral Division affected:
None;

Members' Allowance Scheme 2019/20
(Appendix 'A' refers)

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Executive Summary

This report sets out the proposed Members' Allowance Scheme for 2019/20.

Recommendation

The Full Council is asked to consider the recommendations set out in the report and approve the 2019/20 Members' Allowance Scheme, as presented at Appendix 'A'.

Background and Advice

The County Council is required to approve its Members' Allowance Scheme before the beginning of each financial year.

The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 require the County Council to have regard to the recommendations of its Independent Remuneration Panel before making or amending the Members' Allowance Scheme.

As part of the council's 2019/20 budget considerations, the Cabinet at its meeting on 3 December 2018 agreed to recommend Full Council to approve the following changes to the 2019/20 Members' Allowance Scheme. The Full Council at its meeting on 14 February 2019 approved the recommendations in principle, subject to consultation with the Independent Remuneration Panel:

- The annual uprating of the Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances to be frozen in 2019/20.
- Cease the payment of subsistence allowances to Members and Co-opted members.

The Independent Remuneration Panel has considered and support the proposed changes to the 2019/20 Members' Allowance Scheme.

The Panel also considered a proposal to amend the Members' Allowance Scheme to reflect the long held position that Members are expected to use public transport and not claim mileage expenses for journeys made beyond Lancashire. The Panel noted that it is often cheaper to travel by public transport and the county council can benefit from discounts for advance booking where available. It was agreed that Full Council be recommended to amend the Scheme to prohibit Members and Co-opted members from using personal vehicles to travel beyond Lancashire unless prior approval is given in exceptional circumstances by the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Members Allowances.

Exceptional circumstances would be where an event is held at a remote location with no public transport connections or where the event start/finish time means that the use of public transport is impractical. If the Full Council is minded to approve this amendment, Members and Co-opted members could still elect to use their own vehicle for journeys beyond Lancashire, but they would only be able to claim the equivalent public transport cost unless the journey had been previously approved by the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Members Allowances. .

The proposed 2019/20 Members' Allowance Scheme, incorporating the above recommendations, is attached at Appendix 'A' for the consideration of Full Council. If Full Council is not minded to approve the above recommendations, the proposed Scheme at Appendix 'A' will have to be amended accordingly to include a 2% uprating of Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances as provided for in Section 13 of the Scheme and/or the continued entitlement to Subsistence Allowances and/or the continued payment of mileage expenses for journeys made beyond Lancashire.

Consultations

The council's Independent Remuneration Panel.

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

No significant risks have been identified.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985
List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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N/A

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A