

Full Council

Thursday, 25th May, 2023 at 1.00 pm in Council Chamber, County Hall, Preston

Supplementary Agenda

Index

- 8. Updated Members' Allowance Scheme 2023/24** (Pages 1 - 6)
- 21. Report of County Council Committees**
 - (f) The Overview and Scrutiny Committees** (Pages 7 - 10)

Angie Ridgwell
Chief Executive

County Hall
Preston

23 May 2023



Meeting of the Full Council
Meeting to be held on Thursday, 25 May 2023

Report submitted by: Director of Law and Governance

Part A

Electoral Division affected:
None;

Corporate Priorities:
N/A;

Updated Members' Allowance Scheme 2023/24
(Appendix 'A' refers)

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Brief Summary

This report sets out proposed changes to Special Responsibility Allowances and therefore an updated Members' Allowance Scheme for 2023/24.

Recommendation

Full Council is asked to approve:

- (i) That the Special Responsibility Allowance payable to the Chair of Lancashire County Developments Limited be amended to £4,355.
- (ii) The creation of a Special Responsibility Allowance of £4,355 for the Deputy Chair of the Development Control Committee; and
- (iii) Subject to (i) and (ii) above, that the Members' Allowance Scheme for 2023/24 be updated to include the new Special Responsibility Allowances as presented at Appendix 'A'.

Detail

The Full Council approved its Members' Allowance Scheme for 2023/24 at the meeting held on 23 February 2023. The Scheme includes Special Responsibility

Allowances which are payable to councillors who hold significant additional responsibilities.

These responsibilities and allowances are set out at Schedule 'B' to the Scheme and include an allowance payable to the Chair of Lancashire County Developments Limited; this is a company wholly owned by the county council. Currently, this Special Responsibility Allowance is £8,709 and is identical to the Special Responsibility Allowances paid to the Chairs of the council's committees.

The county council owns a number of companies and, in the main, the Chairs of those companies (where they are a county councillor) are not remunerated. Whilst the Lancashire County Developments Limited Board shares some similarities with some council committees, it is considered that the workload is lower.

It is therefore proposed that the Special Responsibility Allowance paid to the Chair of Lancashire County Developments Limited is halved, to £4,355.

Secondly, the Members' Allowance Scheme does not currently include a Special Responsibility Allowance payable to the Deputy Chair of the Development Control Committee. This committee meets every six weeks, and the Deputy Chair provides an important support for the Chair in managing the complex meetings, often involving members of the public.

To reflect the additional work required, it is proposed that a new Special Responsibility Allowance for the Deputy Chair of the Development Control Committee is created. It is proposed this allowance is £4,355, which is half of the allowance paid to the Chair of the Development Control Committee.

The creation of this new Special Responsibility Allowance would increase the number of positions eligible to receive a Special Responsibility Allowance to 42, which equates to 50% of the county council's members. Government guidance recommends that no more than 50% of an authority's members should receive a Special Responsibility Allowance.

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. On this occasion it was not possible to convene a meeting of the Independent Remuneration Panel; however, the Panel members have been consulted via email and no further comments or objections have been raised.

Attached at Appendix 'A' is a revised Schedule 'B' to the Members' Allowance Scheme for 2023/24. Further to consideration of the proposals outlined above, Full Council is asked to approve that the Members' Allowance Scheme for 2023/24 is updated to include the revised Schedule 'B'.

The changes set out would not be backdated and therefore would only apply from 25 May 2023.



Appendices

Appendix	Title
Appendix 'A'	Updated Schedule 'B' to the Members' Allowance Scheme 2023/24

Consultations

The Independent Remuneration Panel has been consulted and its members have confirmed their support for the proposed changes.

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

There is no financial impact arising from these proposed changes, as the overall annual budget for Special Responsibility Allowances would remain as £472,711.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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None

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A



Appendix A

Lancashire County Council
Members' Allowance Scheme
Schedule 'B' - Special Responsibility Allowances

Position		Amount *£	% of Leader
Leader		34,836	100.00
Deputy Leader		24,385	70.00
Cabinet Members	8@	19,160	55.00
Lead Members	5@	9,579	27.50
Champions	6@	6,097	17.50
Chairs	Overview and Scrutiny	4@ 8,709	25.00
	Corporate Parenting Board	8,709	25.00
	Development Control	8,709	25.00
	Pension Fund	8,709	25.00
	Regulatory	8,709	25.00
	Audit, Risk and Governance	8,709	25.00
	Lancs County Dev Ltd	4,355	12.50
Deputy Chairs	Development Control	4,355	50.00
	Overview and Scrutiny	4@ 4,094	47.00
<i>(This is the % of the amount paid to the Chairs of the relevant Committees)</i>			
Majority Group	Secretary	5,225	15.00
	Whip	5,225	15.00
Largest Opposition Group	Leader	19,160	55.00
	Deputy Leader	9,579	27.50
	Secretary	3,484	10.00
	Whip	3,484	10.00

**to be uplifted following confirmation of the employee pay settlement for 2023/24, with effect from 1 April 2023.*

The following pages are the minutes of the meeting of the Children, Families and Skills Scrutiny Committee held on 22 February 2023 which were inadvertently omitted from Item 21f – 'The Overview and Scrutiny Committees'.

Meeting of the Children, Families and Skills Scrutiny Committee (Wednesday 22 February 2023)

Chair: (County Councillor Andrea Kay)

Part I (Open to Press and Public)

Quarter 1 Report Education Strategy

The report provided a summary of the work that took place during Quarter 1 of the Education Strategy which was agreed by Cabinet in 2022, including the work undertaken on the five Key priorities of the strategy; Increase take up and outcomes in early years settings; Further reduce exclusions; Address rising numbers of EHE (Elective Home Education); Improve outcomes for vulnerable children; and Increase number of children in EET (Employment, Education and Training).

Resolved: That the following recommendations be shared with the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills:

- i. Further information be provided on Kooth and the evidence behind the use of Kooth and how successful it is.
- ii. Wider provision of data and statistics at a district level to be used to back up future reports.
- iii. A report on Virtual Learning Environments (VLEs) and Digital Learning provision across Lancashire (broken down per district) be provided at an appropriate time.
- iv. In the short term, reassurance be provided that referral units have enough provision and are not at full capacity.
- v. In the longer term, officers come back to talk about the audit tool and behaviour marking.
- vi. More information be provided on the start of school, nursery provision. Consideration be given to how children are dealing with isolation and other issues such as behaviour due to the effects of Covid, including any benchmarking data against other areas and sharing of best practice.
- vii. A written update report to be provided to the committee at the end of each Quarter and for officers to come back to the committee to provide a further update in 6 months' time.

Education Attainment 2022

The committee considered a report that provided a summary of the attainment of children and young people in Lancashire during the 2022 summer exam and assessment season.

Resolved: That the following recommendations be shared with the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills:

- i. Greater use of data such as breaking down figures to district and school level for future reports. Consideration be given to the difference in performance between high performing, average performing and low performing schools and what the percentage difference is.
- ii. Consideration be given to the breakdown of data between different cohorts of children, for example, girls, boys, children new to England and free school meals and comparison of this data across the county and districts.
- iii. Sharing of best practice between schools in different areas of Lancashire and approaching a similar authority to share best practice and see how things could be done better.
- iv. Officers to come back to the committee to provide a further update in 6 months' time or at an appropriate time.

School Transport Mapping System

The committee considered a report that outlined the implementation of the county councils Home to School Transport Mapping System.

Resolved: That the following recommendations be shared with the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills:

- i. All secondary schools to be advised that the new system will hopefully be available from September 2023, for the new school year.
- ii. Information on QRoutes be made available on the LCC website as soon as possible for parents so they can have access to the system, so that it is truly transparent.
- iii. Information to be shared on transport safety with all stakeholders including children, parents, schools and transport providers about the work of the Safer Travel Unit.
- iv. More information to be provided on route assessments and data to see how much work is being done on this or to see if this is just in response to appeals. Information from the meeting to be shared with the Cabinet Member for Highways in relation to the Children's Road Safety Task Group, which may need to be updated following some of the discussions today on safety.