

Meeting of the Full Council
Meeting to be held on Thursday, 15 July 2021

Report submitted by: Head of Legal and Democratic Services

Part A

Electoral Division affected:
None;

Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel - 2021/22 Members' Allowance Scheme

(Appendices 'A' and 'B' refer)

Contact for further information:

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Executive Summary

This report sets out the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel in relation to the council's Members' Allowance Scheme for 2021/22, following the Panel's meeting to review the Scheme on 15 June 2021.

Recommendation

The Full Council is asked to:

- (i) Consider the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel, as set out in the report and at Appendix 'A', relating to the county council's Members' Allowance Scheme; and
- (ii) Subject to (i) above, approve the revised Members' Allowance Scheme for 2021/22 and authorise the Director of Corporate Services to make any consequential changes to the Constitution.

Background and Advice

The county council is required to establish an Independent Remuneration Panel and to have regard to its recommendations before any changes are made to its Members' Allowance Scheme. The county council is also required to approve its Members' Allowance Scheme before the beginning of each financial year.

The 2021/22 Members' Allowance Scheme was approved by Full Council at its meeting on 25 February 2021.

A meeting of the Independent Remuneration Panel was held on 15 June 2021 to review and make recommendations on the 2021/22 Scheme, following the county council elections in May 2021. The following information was presented to the Panel to assist its review of the Scheme:

- A copy of the existing Scheme and supporting background information, including a summary of the key elements of the Scheme previously considered by the Panel and approved by the Full Council;
- The result and outcome of the county council elections in May 2021;
- A basic comparison of allowances paid to elected members of Lancashire County Council and those paid to elected members of other, similarly sized county councils, including neighbouring Cumbria County Council;
- An overview of Lancashire County Council's political management structure and decision-making bodies;
- A copy of the decision taken by the Leader of the Council on 27 May 2021 to establish two new Cabinet posts, and to amend the portfolios of the Cabinet Members;
- The views and representations submitted by the political group leaders; and
- Officer suggestions to clarify and update certain aspects of the Scheme and to provide supporting guidance.

The minutes of the Panel's meeting held on 15 June 2021 are attached at Appendix 'A'. The Full Council is asked to consider the review and recommendations of the Panel, as set out in the minutes and which are summarised below:

Recommendation (1) to Full Council:

- i) That consideration be given to how greater scrutiny of the work of all Special Responsibility Allowance holders could be carried out to ensure accountability and value for money; and
- ii) That greater transparency of how Special Responsibility Allowances were set and allocated would be welcomed by the Panel, and the Council should consider how this could be delivered.

Recommendation (2) to Full Council: That the Special Responsibility Allowance paid to the Leader of the Council be realigned to three times the Basic Allowance paid to individual councillors, as previously recommended by the Panel, and that all other Special Responsibility Allowances be adjusted accordingly.

The Full Council will note that the uprating of the Special Responsibility Allowances, as recommended by the Panel, would increase the Special Responsibility Allowance

cost by £20,716. Details of the recommended changes to the Special Responsibility Allowances are set out at Appendix 'B'.

The Panel did not recommend changes to any other allowances set out in the 2021/22 Members' Allowance Scheme.

The Full Council is asked to consider the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel, which are set out above and in more detail at Appendix 'A', and approve any changes to the Members' Allowance Scheme for 2021/22.

Consultations

N/A

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

The Full Council is required to approve an annual Members' Allowance Scheme having regard to the recommendations made by the council's Independent Remuneration Panel.

Financial

The changes to the Members' Allowance Scheme, as recommended by the Panel, will result in an additional full-year cost of £20,716 and will be funded from the Members' budget. The changes will have effect from the appointment of Special Responsibility Allowance holders at the Council's Annual General Meeting on 27 May 2021.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
Agenda of the meeting of the Independent Remuneration Panel	15 June 2021	Hannah Race /(01772) 530655

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A