

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

