

**Meeting: COUNCIL**

Portfolio Area: Members' Services



**Date: 8 MARCH 2023**

## **MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME 2023/24**

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### **1. PURPOSE**

1.1 To recommend to Council a Members' Allowances Scheme for 2023/24.

### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 That a Members' Allowances Scheme be agreed for 2023/24, as set out in Appendix A to this report, be agreed.

2.2 That the Scheme be updated should a percentage increase NJC Pay Award be agreed for 2023/24.

2.3 That, should the 2023/24 NJC Pay Award be a flat rate increase for employees, then (as per 2022/23 Scheme) the Scheme be updated by the percentage rate increase on allowances listed in the NJC pay agreement circular dated 28 February 2022.

### **3. BACKGROUND**

3.1 Local authorities are required to make a Members' Allowances Scheme before the beginning of each financial year.

3.2 At its meeting on 26 February 2020 the Council adopted a Members' Allowances Scheme for 2020/21 based on the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) that had undertaken a comprehensive Council – 8 March 2023

review in Autumn 2019. One of the IRP's recommendations approved by the Council on 26 February 2020 was that, in future years, the allowances be increased in accordance with the pay award applicable to NJC staff.

#### **4. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED COURSE OF ACTIONS AND OTHER OPTIONS**

- 4.1 The Council is being recommended to approve a Scheme for 2023/24 based on the Autumn 2019 recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel, as no amendments have been made to the political management structure of the Council upon which those recommendations were based.
- 4.2 The Scheme recommended includes provision for allowances to be index-linked to officer (NJC) pay awards therefore any pay award agreed would be automatically applied. To date no increase has been agreed for 2023/24, therefore the figures in Appendix A will remain at the same level as those for 2022/23. Should an NJC Pay Award be agreed for 2023/24 then the figures will be uplifted accordingly, either in line with the percentage increase for employees or, if a flat rate increase is agreed (as per 2022/23) then by the percentage rate increase on allowances listed in the NJC pay agreement circular dated 28 February 2022.

#### **5. IMPLICATIONS**

##### **5.1 Financial Implications**

The budget provision for the Members' Allowances Scheme in 2023/24 (inclusive of travel and subsistence) is £522,720, which is sufficient to fund the proposed Scheme.

##### **5.2 Legal Implications**

The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 require that before making a Scheme the Council must have regard to the recommendations made by the Independent Remuneration Panel. The appended draft Scheme for 2023/24 is in accordance with that recommended in the most recent report of the Panel.

#### **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

- Report of Independent Remuneration Panel – January 2020
- Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003

#### **APPENDICES**

- Appendix A - Recommended Members' Allowances Scheme for 2023/24.