

Meeting: COUNCIL

Portfolio Area: Members' Services



Date: 24 FEBRUARY 2021

OFFICER REPORT – MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME 2021-2022

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1. PURPOSE

1.1 To recommend to Council a Members' Allowances Scheme for 2021-2022.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That a Members' Allowances Scheme be agreed for 2021-2022, as set out in Appendix A to this report.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Local authorities are required to make a Members' Allowances Scheme before the beginning of each financial year having considered the recommendations of an Independent Remuneration Panel.

3.2 At its meeting on 26 February 2020 the Council adopted a Members' Allowances Scheme for 2020-2021 based on the recommendations of the Independent Panel that had undertaken a comprehensive review in Autumn 2019.

3.3 The Scheme recommended for 2021-2022 is the same as that agreed by Council on in 2020 with the allowances increased in accordance with the pay award applicable to NJC staff as in previous years.

4. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED COURSE OF ACTIONS AND OTHER OPTIONS

- 4.1 Council is being recommended to approve a Scheme for 2021-2022 based on the latest recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel as there has been no amendment 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 2021-2022 but any increase that may be agreed will be applied to the Scheme shown.

5. IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Financial Implications

The budget provision for the Members Allowances Scheme in 2021-2022, inclusive of travel and subsistence is £463,450 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 2021-2022 is in accordance with that recommended in the most recent report of the Panel.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

APPENDICES

- Appendix A - Recommended Scheme for 2021-2022