

**Meeting:** COUNCIL  
Portfolio Area: Members' Services  
**Date:** 25 FEBRUARY 2026

## **MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME 2026/27**

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### **1. PURPOSE**

1.1 To approve a Members' Allowances Scheme for 2026/27.

### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 That a Members' Allowances Scheme for 2026/27, as set out in Appendix A to this report, be agreed.

### **3. BACKGROUND**

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

3.2 At its meeting on 26 February 2025, the Council adopted a Members' Allowances Scheme for the years 2025/26, 2026/27 and 2027/28, based on the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) that had undertaken a comprehensive review in Autumn 2024.

3.3 The recommendations were that the Basic Allowance, Special Responsibility Allowances, and all other Discretionary Allowances were frozen from 2024/25 for 2025/26, and that for 2026/27 and 2027/28 the Basic Allowance, Special Responsibility Allowances, and the Co-optees' Allowances increase in line with the Retail Price Index [RPI].

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

- 4.1 At its meeting on 26 February 2025, the Council approved a Members' Allowances Scheme for 2026/27 based on an increase in line with the Retail Price Index [RPI].
- 4.2 The rate of RPI published for December 2025 is 4.2% and has been reflected in the updated Members' Allowances Scheme for 2026/27 set out in Appendix A to the report.
- 4.3 Whilst not included in the scope of the December 2024 IRP report, the Scheme as set out in Appendix A includes Allowances for the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, which have been uplifted at the same RPI level as all other allowances, as recommended by the IRP. When the IRP is reconvened again in Autumn 2027 to review Members Allowances from 2028/2029 onwards, the Mayoral Allowances will be included in that review work undertaken by the IRP.

## **5. IMPLICATIONS**

### **5.1 Financial Implications**

- 5.1.1 The 2026/27 Members allowances in line with the IRP have been increased by RPI for 2026/27 and the RPI indicator used was the December published on the 21 January 2026.
- 5.1.2 The 2026/27 Members allowances budget has been increased to reflect that increase and totals £531,100 plus a further £49,600 for employer's national insurance contributions. The report also includes the Mayor and Deputy Mayor allowances for 2026/27 which have also been increased by the December RPI and total £18,530 before expenses relating to events.
- 5.1.3 Subject to approval of the recommendations in this report, the funding for the proposed Scheme is included in the Cabinet's February 2026 Council Tax and General Fund Budget report for 2026/27.

### **5.2 Legal Implications**

- 5.2.1 The Council sets a Members' Allowances Scheme in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000 and the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 ("Regulations"). The Regulations set out that a local authority shall make a Scheme in accordance with the Regulations which shall provide for the payment of an allowance in respect of each year to each member of an authority. In addition, the Regulations require that before making a Scheme the Council must have regard to the recommendations made by the Independent Remuneration Panel.

## **APPENDICES**

- Appendix A – Proposed Members' Allowances Scheme for 2026/2027

## **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Part 1 –  
Release for Press

- Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003
- Report of Independent Remuneration Panel: December 2024