

REPORT OF THE CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

A. REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL ON MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

Introduction

1. This report presents the report of the Independent Panel on Members' Allowances.

Background

2. The statutory framework for members' allowances includes the following requirements:-
 - Each local authority is required to establish and maintain an Independent Remuneration Panel with the function of providing the local authority with advice on its scheme and the amounts to be paid. Local authorities must have regard to this advice.
 - Local authorities must, before the beginning of each year, make a scheme for the payment of a basic allowance for the year. The basic allowance must be payable to all members.
 - The scheme may include provision for the payment of special responsibility allowances, travel and subsistence allowances, a dependants' carers' allowance, and co-optees' allowance.
 - The approval of a members' allowances scheme has to be determined by the full Council and cannot be delegated to the Cabinet or a committee.
 - A scheme for members' allowances may be amended at any time but may only be revoked at the end of the year, i.e. 31 March. A further scheme must be available to replace the revoked scheme.
3. The Independent Remuneration Panel has recently met to consider matters put to it by the County Council and its recommendations are set out in its report which is attached as Appendix A to this report. It concerns a review of the Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances which is linked to an agreed indexation figure, a review of Travel and Subsistence Allowances and a review of Annual Reports submitted by members.

Resources Implications

4. The proposals of the Independent Remuneration Panel can be met from the provision within the budget for members' expenses and support.

Consideration by Constitution Committee

5. The Constitution Committee considered this matter at its meeting on 7th September and decided to recommend the Council to approve the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel unamended, the details being set out in the motion which appears below.

(Motion to be moved:-

- a) That the Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances be increased on annual basis, from 1st April 2022, for a two-year period, in line with the Local Government Pay Award;**
- b) That a further review of the indexation of the Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances be undertaken in 2023;**
- c) That the current levels of Travel and Subsistence Allowances remain unchanged;**
- d) That those members who have submitted an Annual Report be thanked for doing so;**
- e) That those members who have not submitted an Annual Report for the municipal year 2020/21 be requested to do at the earliest opportunity.**

7th September 2021

N J Rushton
Chairman

Background Papers

Report of the Chief Executive to the meeting of the Constitution Committee on 7th September on the Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel on Members' Allowances.

Appendix

Appendix A – Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel on Members' Allowances.