

## **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 Remuneration 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 and its recommendations are set out in the report which is attached as an Appendix.

#### **Resource Implications**

4. The Director of Corporate Resources has been consulted on this report.

#### **Equality Implications**

5. The Scheme incorporates a Carers and Dependants Carers' Allowance.

### Human Rights Implications

6. None.

### Consideration by the Constitution Committee

7. The Constitution Committee considered this matter at its meeting on 15 May 2023 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 Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances be increased by 3.88%, for the period 1st April 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024;**

**(b) That the Panel reconvenes in March 2024 to review the indexation of Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024;**

**(c) That further research be carried out during 2023 with regard to the indexing of allowances in other local authorities.**

15 May 2023

Mr N J Rushton CC  
Chairman

### Background Papers

Report of the Chief Executive to the meeting of the Constitution Committee on 15 May on the Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel on Members' Allowances.

### Appendix

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