

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 and its recommendations are set out in its report which is attached as Appendix A to this report. It concerns the payment of a Special Responsibility Allowance to the Chairmen of the Local Pension Committee and Board and review of the Travel and Subsistence Rates.

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 25th February 2025 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 Chairman of the Local Pension Committee receive a Special Responsibility Allowance of £5,209.00 per annum.**
- (b) That the Chairman of the Local Pension Board receive a Special Responsibility Allowance of £2,318.00 per annum.**
- (c) That the new Special Responsibility Allowances for the Chairmen of the Local Pension Committee and Board be index linked on an annual basis in accordance the level of indexation set out in the Members' Allowance Scheme.**
- (d) That the current levels of Travel and Subsistence allowances remain unchanged.**

25th February 2025

Mrs D. Taylor CC
Acting Chairman

Background Papers

Report of the Chief Executive to the meeting of the Constitution Committee on 25th February 2025 on the Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel on Members' Allowances.

Appendix

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