



OFFICER REPORT TO COUNCIL

REVIEW OF MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES FOR 2020 - 2021 – REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

KEY ISSUE/DECISION:

County Council is invited to consider the Independent Remuneration Panel's report on the review of Members' Allowances for 2020 - 21 and the Panel's resulting recommendations.

BACKGROUND:

1. This report provides the Council with the recommendations from the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) as prepared under the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) Regulations 2003.
2. The Panel's report is attached at **Annex A**. A summary of the recommendations within the report are set out below.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL:

Relating to the Basic Allowance

1. Following the application of all other recommendations in this report, all allowances are rounded up to nearest £10 to avoid allowances being stated to the nearest pence.
2. That the basic allowance is increased from its current level by 1.7 per cent to **£12,660** from the date of the 2020 AGM in line with CPI from September 2019.
3. That the basic allowance is adjusted annually on 1 April thereafter in line with the CPI from the previous September. This recommendation will apply for a maximum of four years at which point the Panel must revisit the allowance.

Relating to Special Responsibility Allowances

4. Each Member may only receive one Special Responsibility Allowance.
5. That all special responsibility allowances are increased from their current level by 1.7 per cent from the date of the 2020 AGM in line with CPI from September 2019. This recommendation does not apply to those allowances covered by recommendations 13 and 14.

6. That all special responsibility allowances are adjusted annually on 1 April thereafter in line with the CPI from the previous September. This recommendation will apply for a maximum of four years at which point the Panel must revisit the allowances.
7. That there are no changes, other than the indexation adjustment in recommendation 5, to the following allowances: Chairman of the Council, Vice-Chairman of the Council, Leader, Deputy Leader, Cabinet Member, Deputy Cabinet Members, Select Committee Chairmen, Planning Committee Chairman, Audit and Governance Committee Chairman, Pension Fund Committee Chairman, Local and Joint Committee Chairmen (where chaired by a Surrey Member), and Opposition Leaders.
8. That the role description for the Deputy Cabinet Member role is updated.
9. That a limit is placed on the number of Deputy Cabinet Members in post at any one time, the Panel recommends four but accepts this is a matter for the Leader.
10. That the governance arrangements for select committees and their task groups or sub committees are clarified, including a role description prepared setting out the responsibilities assumed by Members currently designated as select committee Vice-Chairmen.
11. The eight Members currently designated as select committee Vice-Chairmen receive a new SRA. The role attracting this new SRA will be known as Select Committee Task Group leads and will be interim pending the formal review. These Members will receive an SRA of £1,530 effective from the date of the AGM.
12. Once governance arrangements and role descriptions have been confirmed, the Panel is asked to assess the role for an SRA against the requirements of the Regulations.
13. That the SRA for all committee Vice-Chairmen is abolished.
14. That the SRA for the office holders of political groups is abolished.

Relating to Inclusivity

15. The hourly cap on childcare allowance is abolished. Members may claim actual costs incurred in performing approved duties.
16. Members can claim any additional costs incurred by them where they can demonstrate that the cost was wholly and necessarily incurred in order to participate in approved duties. Individual claims under this provision to be scrutinised as usual by Democratic Services.
17. The hourly cap on dependent carers allowance is abolished. Members may claim actual costs incurred in performing approved duties.
18. That the Council introduces a shared parental leave policy for Members.

19. Democratic Services to be proactive about raising awareness that these costs are claimable with both existing and potential new Members.
20. Members to act as role models by claiming what they are entitled to, and thereby demonstrating to new Members that they will not be financially disadvantaged due to personal circumstances.

Relating to Expenses and Approved Duties

21. That mileage rates are linked with officer rates, apart from fully electric car rates.
22. That Members may claim 45p per mile for using fully electric cars to perform approved duties.

Lead/Contact Officers:

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Sources/background papers: None

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