

Report to: Audit & Governance Committee Meeting
27 September 2023

Director or Business Manager Lead: Sue Bearman - Assistant Director Legal & Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer

Lead Officer: Nigel Hill - Business Manager Elections & Democratic Services, Ext 5243

Report Summary	
Report Title	Report of the Members Allowances Independent Remuneration Panel
Purpose of Report	To consider the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel regarding the Scheme of Members Allowances for 2023/4 in the context of value for money.
Recommendations	That Members note: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel prior to its submission to Full Council on 17 October 2023; and (b) note that the proposal to Full Council will be for the in-year additional budget requirement of £19,125, to be financed from Corporate Contingency.
Reason for Recommendation	To align with the purpose and values in the Council's Community Plan by securing value for money.

1.0 Background

- 2.1 As Members will be aware, the Full Council, at their meeting held on 18 July 2023, agreed to reconvene the Independent Remuneration Panel on Members Allowances, following an increase in the number of Cabinet Portfolio Holders from five to eight.
- 2.2 The Panel had previously conducted a review in late 2020 and their final report at that time was considered by the Full Council at their meeting held on 9 March 2021. The Council approved the recommendations made by the Panel in their report, but resolved not to implement at the current time, given the pandemic, the constraints on public sector pay and the review of the Council's governance arrangements. The Panel undertook a further review of Members Allowances in the context of the Council's revised governance arrangements which were implemented from May 2022. The current Scheme was adopted in May 2022.

- 2.4 Regulations set out the range of allowances that can be paid to Councillors and the requirement to have an Independent Remuneration Panel to make recommendations to the Council regarding Members' Allowances.
- 2.5 The scope of the review was to consider the change in the Council's Cabinet arrangements and any wider implications. To ensure the Scheme remains fit for purpose, the Panel was also asked to consider the special responsibility allowance made to the Leader of the Main Opposition Group, to review the current childcare and dependents carers' allowance, and to consider the wording of the Members Allowance Scheme covering allowances made to Leaders of Minority Opposition Groups.
- 2.6 The Independent Remuneration Panel have now completed their Report, and this is attached as the **Appendix** to the report.
- 2.7 This Final Report of the Panel is scheduled to be considered by the Full Council at their meeting to be held on 17 October 2023, at which it will need to determine whether to adopt the recommendations of the Panel Report and implement a revised Scheme of Members Allowances.

3.0 Implications

In writing this report and in putting forward recommendations officers have considered the following implications; Data Protection, Digital and Cyber Security, Equality and Diversity, Financial, Human Resources, Human Rights, Legal, Safeguarding and Sustainability and where appropriate they have made reference to these implications and added suitable expert comment where appropriate.

Financial Implications - FIN23-24/42

- 3.1 The increase from five portfolio holders to eight and the proposal to continue with the current SRA rate of £8,500 will require an in year additional budget requirement of £25,500. However, the three new portfolio holders started their roles in July 2023, therefore the additional budget required for the financial year 2023-24 will be £19,125. The £19,125 will be financed from the Corporate Contingency and the future year budget implications will be built into the budget setting process for the financial year 2024-25 onwards.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Report to Full Council – 9 March 2021

<https://democracy.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=139&MIId=448>

Report to Full Council – 17 May 2023

<https://democracy.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=139&MIId=756>

Report to Full Council 18 July 2023

<https://democracy.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=139&MIId=891>

Current Scheme of Members Allowances

<https://www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/your-council/your-council/councillors-andcommittees/councillor-allowances/>