

REPORT OF THE MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES PANEL – JULY 2019

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The law requires the Council to make a scheme that provides for the payment of allowances each year to each member of the authority. Where the Council seeks to review any aspect of its scheme it must first take account of any recommendations from the Independent Remuneration Panel (Members' Allowances Panel) established for this purpose.
- 1.2 The Panel is required to make recommendations on the Members' Allowances Scheme, in accordance with the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003.
- 1.3 The membership of the Panel comprises:

Beverley Porritt (Chair)
Peter Robinson
Hazel Smith
David Waxman
- 1.4 The Members' Allowances Panel has recently undertaken a full review of the existing scheme of allowances for councillors and a report with their findings and recommendations was submitted to the Annual Meeting of Council on 16 May 2019. All the Panel's recommendations were endorsed by the Council, with the exception of the Special Responsibility Allowance for the role of Deputy Leader.
- 1.5 The Council resolved to ask the Panel to reconsider the Special Responsibility Allowance for the Deputy Leader in light of changes which had been made to the key areas of responsibility of this role; and in the interim the Deputy Leader continue to be paid the current Special Responsibility Allowance rate. The Panel has therefore met to consider this element of the Scheme and their findings and recommendations are detailed within this report.

2. SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY ALLOWANCE FOR THE DEPUTY LEADER

- 2.1 The Panel had recommended previously (as approved by Council on 16 May 2019) that the Members' Basic Allowance should be used as the baseline for determining Special Responsibility Allowances for the Leader of the Council, Deputy Leader of the Council, Leader of the Main Opposition Group, Cabinet Members, Chairmen and Vice Chairmen and Group Allowances.
- 2.2 The Council had also endorsed the Panel's recommendation that a councillor should only receive one Special Responsibility Allowance (which would be the higher amount) and that indexation be applied in line with the NJC officers' national pay award from April 2020.
- 2.3 The Panel had recommended that the Special Responsibility Allowance relating to the Deputy Leader of the Council be calculated to reflect a multiple of 1.61 of the Basic Allowance.

- 2.4 In reconsidering the Special Responsibility Allowance for the role of Deputy Leader, the Panel considered the changes which had been made to the role and responsibilities of the Deputy Leader. The role had now taken on responsibility for Public Health and Member Development, in addition to having responsibility for Strategic Partnerships including Health, Policy Development, Transformation and Performance. The Panel also considered research which had been undertaken in relation to allowances for Deputy Leader in comparison with other unitary local authorities and the financial implications of changing this element of the Scheme.
- 2.5 In conclusion the Panel agreed to recommend that the Special Responsibility Allowance for the Deputy Leader be calculated to reflect a multiple of twice the Basic Allowance, to reflect the additional responsibilities of the role. The proposed change could be achieved within existing budgets.
- 2.6 A copy of the Scheme and Schedule of Members' Allowances, including the proposed Special Responsibility Allowance for the Deputy Leader, is attached at Appendix A.

Recommendation	That the Special Responsibility Allowance relating to the Deputy Leader of the Council be calculated to reflect a multiple of twice the Basic Allowance (£23,464).
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