

Public
Key Decision - No

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Title/Subject Matter: Members' Allowances: Report by the Independent Remuneration Panel

Meeting/Date: Council – 21 July 2021

Report by: Elections and Democratic Services Manager.

Ward(s) affected: All

Executive Summary:

The Council's current Members' Allowances Scheme was approved on 17th October 2018 and came into effect on that date. The Scheme forms part of the Council's Constitution.

The Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 require an Authority to have regard to recommendations made to it by an Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) before making or amending a scheme of Members' Allowances.

The 2017 Order establishing the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority prevents it from paying any allowances to its Members other than the elected Mayor. District Council's therefore can only properly remunerate their appointees to the Authority through their own allowances scheme.

The Independent Panel was convened in June 2021 and asked to review members allowances for Huntingdonshire District Council Members appointed to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority.

Although the Panel had regard to the establishment of the Combined Authority when undertaking its review in 2018, since then the Authority has developed new and routine ways of working which has enhanced demands on all Huntingdonshire District Council appointments.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Council is invited to consider the Independent Remuneration Panel's recommendations and to implement them with effect from 2nd June 2021.

- (a) the reduction of the Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA) paid to the District Council's Executive leader to £14,813 and the establishment of a new separate SRA of £5,100 to be paid to the**

Huntingdonshire District Council appointee to the Combined Authority Board;

- (b) the reduction of the Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA) paid to the District Council's Deputy Executive Leader to £11,110 and the establishment of a new separate SRA of £1,685 to be paid to the substitute appointment to the Combined Authority Board;**
- (c) the payment of a Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA) of £946 to those members of the District Council who are appointed to the Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Audit and Governance Committee;**
- (d) the payment of a Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA) of £3068 should a Huntingdonshire District Council appointee be appointed Chair of either the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee or the Audit and Governance Committee;**
- (e) the non-payment of an Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA) to the substitute District Council appointees to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny and Audit and Governance Committees;**
- (f) that the Special Responsibilities recommended for the Council's appointees to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority be exempt from the 1 SRA rule which is currently in place in the Huntingdonshire District Council's Members Allowances scheme; and**
- (g) the Special Responsibility Allowances for Huntingdonshire District Council Members appointed to Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority and its committees be indexed to the locally agreed cost of living percentage increase in Huntingdonshire District Council local government staff salaries and implemented from the date of the annual meeting for the same year that it applies to staff, up until the end of 2021/22 financial year, which is when the current authority for indexation expires.**

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to consider the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel following their review of Members Allowances for Huntingdonshire District Council Members appointed to Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The current Members' Allowances Scheme was approved by Council on 17th October 2018 and forms part of the Council's Constitution.
- 2.2 The Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 require an authority to have regard to recommendations made to it by an Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) before making or amending a scheme of members' allowances.
- 2.3 The 2017 Order establishing the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority prevents it from paying any allowances to its Members other than the elected Mayor. District Council's therefore can only properly remunerate their appointees to the Authority through their own allowances scheme.
- 2.4 The Independent Panel was convened in June 2021 and asked to review Members Allowances for Huntingdonshire District Council Members appointed to Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority.

3. CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The Panel met in private session via Zoom on the 9th and 10th June 2021 to undertake the review.
- 3.2 The Panel's report is attached at Appendix 1. The report is based on the Panel's discussions and summarises the principal issues. The Council is requested to consider the recommendations set out in the report and agree their backdated implementation with effect from 2nd June 2021. This is the date that the relevant appointments were confirmed at the Annual Meeting of the Combined Authority Board.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 In setting and amending its Members' Allowances levels, the Council is obliged to have regard to the recommendation of an Independent Remuneration Panel established for this purpose.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The recommendations contained in the report will result in an increase of £6,093 on the current spend on Members allowances. It is proposed that as per the Council's current scheme, the new Special Responsibility Allowances for Huntingdonshire District Council Members appointed to Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority be indexed to the

locally agreed cost of living percentage increase in Huntingdonshire District Council local government staff salaries and implemented from the date of the annual meeting for the same year that it applies to staff, up until the end of 2021/22 financial year.

6. WHAT ACTIONS WILL BE TAKEN

- 6.1 Subject to the approval of the proposals and in accordance with the regulations, copies of the revised Members Allowances scheme will be made available for inspection by the public at Pathfinder House. Details will also be published on the District Council's website.
- 6.2 The report proposes that the recommendations be implemented from the date of the Combined Authority Annual Meeting on 2nd June 2021.
- 6.3 The Independent Remuneration Panel is due to reconvene in 2022 to undertake a full-scale review of all Members' Allowances. It is proposed that the IRP will take the opportunity afforded by the review to revisit the recommended SRAs for Huntingdonshire District Council Members appointed to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority and its Committees.

7. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDED DECISIONS

- 7.1 Part 6 of the Council's Constitution provides for the Council to adopt a Members Allowances Scheme. An authority is required to have regard to recommendations made to it by an Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) before making or amending a scheme of members' allowances.

8. LIST OF APPENDICES INCLUDED

Appendix 1: A Review of Members Allowances for Huntingdonshire District Council: Members Appointed to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

CONTACT OFFICER

Name/Job Title: Lisa Jablonska, Elections and Democratic Services Manager
Tel No: (01480) 388004
Email: Lisa.Jablonska@huntingdonshire.gov.uk