



COUNCIL: 27 February 2019

Report of: Borough Solicitor

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SUBJECT: MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME 2019/20 AND APPOINTMENT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

Wards affected: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To consider the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP), agree the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2019/20 and to note and endorse the Membership of the IRP.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That it be noted that the IRP has not recommended any changes to the Members Allowances Scheme for 2019/20 and consequently a report from the IRP has not been submitted for consideration.

2.2 That it be noted that the Basic Allowance of £4,842 has been fixed for a 4 year period until 31 March 2020, the Council being able to ask the IRP to consider an increase in any year and to give specific reasons for the request.

2.3 That the Borough Solicitor update the Members Allowance Scheme, effective from 1 April 2019, incorporating a Basic Allowance of £4,842 (no increase) and provision for SRA payments (no change), such scheme to be incorporated into the Constitution and subsequently published.

2.4 That the Membership of the IRP for 2019/20 and the respective terms of office be noted and endorsed as follows:

Mrs G Stanley (Chairman)	1 May 2021
Mr J Boardman	1 May 2020
Mr I Thompson	1 May 2022

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 The Council must establish and operate an IRP to consider and make recommendations on various issues relating to the matter of allowances to members of the authority. The Council is required to take into consideration any

recommendation made by its IRP when making any new scheme of allowances or revising or amending any existing scheme.

- 3.2 The Council currently has a scheme for the payment of a Basic Allowance to each Member plus a Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA) for each of those Members holding a position of special responsibility. The Scheme also provides for the payment of travel and subsistence allowances and, in certain specific circumstances, Childcare and Dependent Carer's Allowance.

4.0 THE COUNCIL'S SCHEME FOR 2019/20

- 4.1 The IRP met on 15 November 2018 to consider the current position in relation to Members' Allowances and the Council's Scheme for 2019/20. The Panel did not recommend any changes to the Members Allowances Scheme for 2019/20 and consequently a report from the IRP has not been submitted for consideration.
- 4.2 Following the decision of Council at its meeting on 13 December 2017, the Panel also reviewed the role of the Mayor. Consideration was given to the number of events attended by the Mayor/Deputy Mayor in 2016, 2017 and 2018 and also the level of allowances paid in other Lancashire authorities. The Panel did not recommend any changes to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor's allowances for 2019/20.
- 4.3 Members of the IRP also meet to consider Parish matters as the Parish Remuneration Panel (PRP) and consequently a report from the PRP has not been submitted for consideration. Parish Councils will be advised accordingly.
- 4.4 The Schemes commence on 1 April in each year in accordance with the legislation, rather than the municipal year. Following the Council's decision, an updated Borough Scheme for 2019/20 will be prepared, effective from 1 April 2019. A copy of the scheme will be incorporated in the Council's Constitution and subsequently published on the Council's website and circulated to Members.

5.0 THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL MEMBERSHIP

- 5.1 The IRP Membership is Mrs G Stanley, Mr J Boardman and Mr I Thompson. Terms of office are 3 years, with one position on the Panel being subject to re-selection each year. The Term of Office of Mr I Thompson expires on 1 May 2019. The Council is required to adopt an appointments process that it considers is best able to provide an Independent Panel that is well qualified to discharge its functions and which is representative of the community. The Council's arrangements for appointing the Panel involved the placing of advertisements in the local press and then interviewing the candidates.
- 5.2 Mr Thompson has indicated that he is prepared to serve for a further period of three years. Given the infrequency with which the IRP is required to meet, it takes some time to gain relevant experience and therefore it is sensible to maintain continuity of membership where possible. Mr Thompson has been a member of the Panel since July 2010. If the Council wished to appoint a replacement member, a full recruitment process would need to be undertaken in accordance with the appropriate Regulations, which would then be reported to Council for approval at a future meeting.

5.3 Regulations provide for Allowances to be paid to IRP members and for 2019/20 each Panel member will be entitled to receive an allowance of £250, with the Chairman receiving an additional £50. These are included as part of the Council's scheme and provision is included in the current budget.

5.4 The Panel has also been appointed to serve as the PRP and in this respect considers and reports to the Parish Councils on issues relating to Members' allowances paid by those bodies.

6.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The budget figures for 2019-20 contained elsewhere on the agenda for this meeting include provision to meet the costs of Basic and Special Responsibilities Allowances, together with employer's National Insurance (N.I.) contributions where appropriate.

Background Documents

There are no background documents (as defined in Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 to this Report).

Equality Impact Assessment

The decision does not have any direct impact on members of the public, employees and stakeholders, however there is a direct impact on elected members. Therefore an Equality Impact Assessment is attached as an Appendix to this report.

Appendices:

1. Equality Impact Assessment