

**Report of Principal Corporate Governance Officer**

**Report to Head of Governance and Scrutiny Support**

**Date: 20<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

**Subject: Annual Updating of Members' Allowances Scheme**

Are specific electoral wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, access to information procedure rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

**Summary of main issues**

1. This report sets out the annual update in accordance with paragraph 5.1 of the Member Allowances Scheme.

**Recommendations**

2. The Head of Governance and Scrutiny Support is requested to approve the consequential amendments to Schedule 1 to the Members' Allowances Scheme (shown at Appendix A attached) in order to reflect the annual update in allowances to take effect on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018.

## **1 Purpose of this report**

- 1.1 This report sets out consequential amendments to Schedule 1 of the Members' Allowances Scheme (the Scheme), necessary to give effect to the annual uplift linked to the negotiated pay settlement agreed through the National Joint Committee for 2018/19 which due to take effect on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018.

## **2 Background information**

- 2.1 The Scheme sets out details of the Basic, Special Responsibility, Travel and Dependent Carers' Allowances payable to Councillors and Co-optees in respect of their roles.
- 2.2 In June 2016 Full Council considered a report from the Independent Remuneration Panel recommending inter alia an extension of the period for the annual updating of allowances. As a result of this Paragraph 5.1 of the Scheme now provides that the amounts referred to "will be increased yearly on 1 October in line with the headline pay increase negotiated through the National Joint Committee for Local Government Employees... until June 2020 or until an earlier review by the Independent Remuneration Panel."
- 2.3 In 2018 the National Joint Committee agreed a two percent uplift in salaries from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018. The Council's paycales have been adjusted accordingly.
- 2.4 Subsistence rates claimable by officers were reviewed and amended alongside the amendments to paycales.

## **3 Main issues**

- 3.1 Schedule 1 to the Scheme sets out the sums payable in respect of Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances. Schedule 2 sets out the sums payable in respect of Travel Allowances and Carers Allowance.
- 3.2 Amendments are proposed to Schedule 1 to give effect to the agreed 2% uplift. In addition amendments are proposed to Schedule 2 to reflect amendments to the subsistence rates claimable.
- 3.3 Appendix A to this report sets out the amended Members' Allowances Scheme.

## **4 Corporate considerations**

### **4.1 Consultation and engagement**

- 4.1.1 Group Leaders have been consulted in respect of whether to proceed with the uplift for the 2018/19 year. All Members have been advised of the date from which the uplift will apply.

### **4.1.2 Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration**

- 4.1.1 There are no implications for this report.

## **4.2 Council policies and best council plan**

4.2.1 There are no specific considerations for this report.

## **4.3 Resources and value for money**

4.3.1 Having regard to the overall budget cost of applying the uplift to Members' allowances the uplift is affordable from funds available within the allowances scheme budget.

## **4.4 Legal Implications, access to information and call In**

4.4.1 This decision sets out consequential amendments to the Constitution and will be treated as a significant operational decision and published in accordance with the Executive and Decision Making Procedure Rules. The Members' Allowances Scheme and its schedules are published within the Council's Constitution and available to the public.

## **4.5 Risk management**

4.5.1 There are no specific considerations for this report.

## **5 Conclusions**

5.1 The consequential amendments are in accordance with the provisions of the Members' Allowances Scheme as amended in accordance with the decision of Council in June 2016 to extend the period of annual uplift to June 2020.

## **6 Recommendations**

6.1 The Head of Governance and Scrutiny Support is recommended to approve the consequential amendments shown at Appendix A to this report with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018.

## **7 Background documents<sup>1</sup>**

7.1 None

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<sup>1</sup> The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.