

**Report of Principal Corporate Governance Officer**

**Report to Head of Democratic Services**

**Date: 16<sup>th</sup> December 2019**

**Subject: Amendments to Constitution – Members Allowances**

Are specific electoral wards affected? If yes, name(s) of ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Has consultation been carried out?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Will the decision be open for call-in?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

**Summary**

**1. Main issues**

- I. This report sets out the annual update in accordance with paragraph 5.1 of the Member Allowances Scheme which provides that basic, special responsibility and dependent carers' allowances:-

*... will be increased yearly on 1<sup>st</sup> October in line with the headline pay increase negotiated through the National Joint Council for Local Government Employees (or equivalent) ...*

**2. Best Council Plan Implications** (click [here](#) for the latest version of the Best Council Plan)

- There are no implications for the Best Council Plan.

**3. Resource Implications**

- The allowances payable under the updated scheme will be met from existing resources.

**Recommendations**

- a) The Head of Democratic Services is requested to approve amendments to the Members Allowances Scheme as shown at Appendix 1 attached to give effect to the annual increase.

## **1. Purpose of this report**

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

## **2. Background information**

- 2.1 Article 15.2.3 provides that the City Solicitor, in her role as Monitoring Officer, is authorised to make any changes to any part of the Constitution which are required:-
- As a result of legislative change or decisions of the Council or Executive to enable them to maintain it up to date; or
  - For the purposes of clarification only.
- 2.2 The City Solicitor has sub delegated this authority to the Head of Democratic Services.

## **3. Main issues**

- 3.1 At its meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2019 Council approved recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel, namely that;
- I. Basic, special responsibility and dependent carers' allowances be increased each October in line with the headline pay increase negotiated through the National Joint Council for Local Government Employees and that this indexation continue until June 2023. Paragraph 5.1 of the Members' Allowances Scheme was amended in July 2019 to reflect this recommendation.
- 3.2 Amendments are now proposed to the Members' Allowances Scheme to give effect to the annual uplift. The amendments are set out at Appendix 1 to this report.

## **4. Corporate considerations**

### **4.1 Consultation and engagement**

- 4.1.1 This report gives effect to a decision of full Council taken following consultation with the Independent Remuneration Panel and on the recommendation of General Purposes Committee.

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

- 4.2.1 There are no implications for this report.

### **4.3 Council policies and the Best Council Plan**

- 4.3.1 There are no implications for this report.

#### Climate Emergency

- 4.3.2 There are no implications for this report.

#### **4.4 Resources, procurement and value for money**

- 4.4.1 The allowances payable under the updated scheme will be met from existing resources.

#### **4.5 Legal implications, access to information, and call-in**

- 4.5.1 This is a significant operational decision and will be published on the Council's website.

#### **4.6 Risk management**

- 4.6.1 There are no implications for this report.

### **5. Conclusions**

- 5.1 The proposed constitutional amendment will give effect to the decision of Council and is in accordance with the Members Allowances Scheme.

### **6. Recommendations**

- 6.1 The Head of Democratic Services is requested to approve amendments to the Members Allowances Scheme as shown at Appendix 1 attached.

### **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.