



Northumberland

County Council

COUNCIL

DATE: 4TH MAY 2022

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

Report of the Monitoring Officer

Cabinet Member: Councillor Richard Wearmouth

Purpose of report

To consider the report of the recently convened Independent Remuneration Panel and decide if any or all of its recommendations should be adopted.

Recommendations

Council is invited to consider the report and decide if any or all of its recommendations should be adopted.

Link to Corporate Plan

This links with the 'How' priority within the 2021- Corporate Plan

Key issues

The Panel have recommended the following:

- (1) the level of basic allowance for elected Members be maintained at its current level of £15,033 from the start of the 2022/23 municipal year, with the index-linking previously agreed for this allowance to be continued;
- (2) the Panel be authorised to give further consideration to the level of special responsibility allowances as part of the next review of the Members' Allowances Scheme;
- (3) a special responsibility allowance of one third of the value of the Cabinet Members' special responsibility allowances be attached to the three Deputy Cabinet Member positions (this being, at present, £4,950) from the date of the Annual Council meeting of 4th May 2022;
- (4) The issue of broadband allowances be considered further at the next review
- (5) that a review of the Parental leave policy takes place at the next review
- (6) the panel be authorised to carry out a more considered and detailed review of

members allowances be carried out in time for Full Council in January 2023 which the Panel understands could then feed into the Budget-setting process and could take effect for the municipal year 2023/24

Background

1. All councils are required to convene their Independent Remuneration Panel and seek its advice before they make any changes or amendments to their allowances scheme. They must 'pay regard' to the Panel's recommendations before setting a new or amended Members' Allowances Scheme.
2. A Panel was convened in April 2022 and given terms of reference as set out on page 2 of the Panel's report. It met under the chairmanship of Mr. John Anderson. A number of members representative of the wider membership were invited to give evidence to the Panel. The final report of the Panel is attached at Appendix A and its recommendations are to be advertised in the local press. At the time of writing, comments on the final report are awaited from one panel member, and members will be updated at the meeting as necessary.
3. Panel members have recommended that a more detailed review of allowances including the issues of broadband allowances and the Members Parental Leave Policy be considered at a more detailed review later in 2022.

Implications

Policy	None
Finance and value for money	The recommendations are anticipated to result in a small, permanent net cost increase against the Members' Allowances budget (the annual increase being less than £0.006m against a £1.531m budget in 2022/23) caused by the addition of Special Responsibility Allowances for the three Deputy Portfolio Holders and the removal of the allowance for the Deputy Business Chair.
Legal	Contained within the report
Procurement	None
Human Resources	None
Property	None
Equalities (Impact Assessment attached)	None

Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> X	
Risk Assessment	N/A
Crime & Disorder	N/A
Customer Consideration	A statutory notice is to be placed in the Journal newspaper giving notice that a report has been received and a summary of the recommendations contained therein
Carbon reduction	N/A
Health and Wellbeing	N/A
Wards	All

Background papers:

The following background papers/information have been used in the compilation of this report

- (1) Northumberland County Council Constitution
- (2) Members' Allowances Scheme
- (3) Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 (as amended).

Report sign off.

Authors must ensure that officers and members have agreed the content of the report:

	Full Name of Officer
Monitoring Officer/Legal	Lynsey Denyer
Executive Director of Finance & S151 Officer	Jan Willis
Relevant Executive Director	Jan Willis
Chief Executive	Cath McEvoy Carr obo Daljit Lally
Portfolio Holder(s)	Richard Wearmouth

Author and Contact Details

Suki Binjal, Interim Monitoring Officer and Director of Corporate Assurance

Appendix 1

Report of Independent Remuneration Panel