

Extraordinary Council



10 June 2021

Title	Members' Allowances Scheme 2021/22
Purpose of the report	To make a decision
Report Author	Gillian Scott, Committee Services Support Officer
Corporate Priority	This item is not in the current list of Corporate Priorities but still requires a Council decision
Recommendations	Council is asked to consider the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel on the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2021-22, as set out in full in the attached updated report.
Reason for Recommendation	The Council is required to make a scheme of allowances and the Independent Remuneration Panel is appointed by the Council to advise on the type of its allowances and the amounts to be paid.

1. Key issues

- 1.1 The Independent Remuneration Panel met on 21 and 28 April 2021 to review the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2021/22.
- 1.2 It is a matter for the Council to decide the level of members' allowances under the Spelthorne Members' Allowances Scheme.
- 1.3 The function of the Independent Remuneration Panel (the Panel) is to provide the Council with advice on the type of its allowances and the amounts to be paid.
- 1.4 The statutory position is that Spelthorne Borough Council "shall have regard to" the advice from the Panel and the Council cannot make any changes to its Scheme of Members' Allowances without first considering the Panel's advice on the issues involved. The Panel acknowledges that it is a matter for the Council to decide the level of Members' Allowances. In having regard to the Panel's advice, the Council is to "give proper consideration" to the Panel's report. In this way, the Council can take full account of its particular circumstances and be directly accountable to its electorate.
- 1.5 At the Annual Council meeting on 27 May 2021, the Council agreed to defer consideration of the Independent Remuneration Panel's report and requested that the Panel investigate the possibility of including a travel allowance payment for electric cars and report their findings back to Council.

2. Options analysis and proposal

- 2.1 The proposals recommended by the Panel are set out in detail in the attached updated report. A summary of the Panel's recommendations can be found on pages 13-14 of the report.

3. Financial implications

- 3.1 The budget for Members' Allowances for 2020/21 was £354,652. Taking into account the proposed increase in the Basic Allowance for all members and the changes in the level of Special Responsibility Allowances to reflect the Council's move to a Committee System of governance, the Scheme recommended by the Panel requires a reduction in the budget to £347,617 for 2021/22.

4. Other considerations

- 4.1 There are none.

5. Equality and Diversity

- 5.1 There are no impacts on equality and diversity arising from the recommendations in the Panel's report.

6. Sustainability/Climate Change Implications

- 6.1 There are no impacts on sustainability or climate change arising from the recommendations in the Panel's report.

7. Timetable for implementation

- 7.1 Subject to Council approval on 10 June 2021, the changes to the levels of basic and special responsibility allowances will take effect immediately.
- 7.1 In accordance with the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 the Scheme will be made available on the website and a notice published in a local newspaper giving details of the Scheme and the amounts payable in respect of each allowance mentioned in the Scheme.

Background papers: There are none.

Appendices:

Updated Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel – June 2021