

Council



14 October 2021

Title	Amendment to the 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 amendments to the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2021-22: 1. to pay a Special Responsibility Allowance of £2000 each, to the members of the Development Sub-Committee; and 2. to remove the 'one SRA only' rule from the Scheme.
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 September 2021 to consider a request from a member to review the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2021/22 with regards to the role of the members serving on the Development Sub-Committee.
- 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.

2. Options analysis and proposal

- 2.1 The proposals recommended by the Panel are set out in detail in the attached report. A summary of the Panel's recommendations can be found on page 3 of the report.

3. Financial implications

- 3.1 The budget for the agreed Members' Allowances Scheme for 2021/22 was £348,717. The additional Special Responsibility Allowance for the members of the Development Sub-Committee, as recommended by the Panel, requires an additional annual budget of £14,000, bringing the total budget for the 2021/22 Scheme to £362,717.
- 3.2 If Council agrees the Panel's recommendations a supplementary estimate of £10,500, being the additional budget required for the period 15/7/21 (see 7.2 below) to 31/3/22, will need to be agreed by the Chief Finance Officer in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of Corporate Policy and Resources Committee, as per Financial Regulations.

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 14 October 2021, the additional Special Responsibility Allowance for members of the Development Sub-Committee will be backdated to 15 July 2021, being the date on which the membership was appointed to the Sub-Committee.
- 7.2 In accordance with the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 the revised Scheme will be made available on the website and a notice published in a local newspaper giving details of the additional amounts payable in respect of members of the Development Sub-Committee.

Background papers: There are none.

Appendices:

Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel – September 2021