

Council

26 May 2022



Title	Members' Allowances Scheme 2022/23
Purpose of the report	To make a decision
Report Author	Gary Lelliott, Principal Committee Manager
Corporate Priority	This item is not in the current list of Corporate Priorities but still requires a Council decision
Recommendations	The Council is asked to agree interim arrangements for the Members' Allowances Scheme, namely continuing with the provisions of the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2021/22, pending the receipt and consideration of recommendations from the Independent Remuneration Panel.
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. Summary of the report

- 1.1 This report requests that the Council agree interim arrangements for the Members' Allowances Scheme pending the completion of the Independent Remuneration Panel process.

2. Key issues

- 2.1 The Independent Remuneration Panel is tasked with reviewing the Members Allowances Scheme on an annual basis and making recommendations to the Council.
- 2.2 The locally agreed 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.

3. Options analysis and proposal

- 3.1 The Council is asked to retain the existing special responsibility allowances (SRA) until recommendations are received from the Panel.

4. Financial implications

- 4.1 The budget for the agreed Members' Allowances Scheme for 2021/22 was £374,300 (including the newly introduced SRA for Development Sub-Committee members).
- 4.2 Following a review of the Council's committee arrangements on 28 April 2022, the number of voting members on the Development Sub-Committee was revised from 7 to 11. There will therefore be an additional annual cost of approximately £8,000, bringing the annual cost of the scheme to **£382,300**.
- 4.3 If the Council agrees this interim position, a supplementary estimate of approximately £8,500, being the additional budget required for the 2022/23 municipal year (including the newspaper advertising cost), 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.

5. Risk considerations

- 5.1 There are no considerations.

6. Legal considerations

- 6.1 The Council is required to agree its member allowances scheme on an annual basis. See paragraph 10.2.

7. Other considerations

- 7.1 There are none.

8. Equality and Diversity

- 8.1 There are no impacts.

9. Sustainability/Climate Change Implications

- 9.1 There are no implications.

10. Timetable for implementation

- 10.1 The timetable for implementing the Development Sub-Committee element of the scheme is dependent on the date it is constituted. Its proper constitution requires nominations from the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee and the Environment and Sustainability Committee, and the eventual agreement of the Council.
- 10.2 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.

Background papers: There are none.

Appendices:

The 2021/22 allowances scheme.