

Title	Members' Allowances Scheme 2022/23
Purpose of the report	To make a decision
Report Author	Gillian Scott, Corporate Governance 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 2022-23, as set out in full in the attached 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 10 November 2022 to review the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2022/23.
- 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 8 of the report.

3. Financial implications

- 3.1 The annual budget for Members' Allowances for 2021/22 following Council agreement on 14 October 2021 to award a Special Responsibility Allowance to the 7 members of the Development Sub-Committee was £362,717. Taking into account both the increase in numbers of members on Development Sub-Committee from May 2022, to 11 and the proposed increase in the Basic Allowance in 2022-23 for all members, the Scheme recommended by the Panel requires an increase in the budget of £12,992 to £375,709 for 2022/23.

4. Risk Considerations

- 4.1 There are none.

5. Procurement Considerations

- 5.1 There are none.

6. Legal Considerations

- 6.1 In accordance with the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003, 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.

7. Other considerations

- 7.1 There are none.

8. Equality and Diversity

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

9. Sustainability/Climate Change Implications

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

10. Timetable for implementation

- 10.1 Subject to Council approval on 8 December 2022, the change to the level of Basic Allowance will be backdated to 1 April 2022.
- 10.1 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.

11. Contact

- 11.1 Gillian Scott, g.scott@spelthorne.gov.uk

Background papers: There are none.

Appendices:

Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel – December 2022