

# Council



19 October 2023

<b>Title</b>	Members' Allowances Scheme 2023-24
<b>Purpose of the report</b>	To make a decision
<b>Report Author</b>	Gillian Scott, Corporate Governance Support Officer
<b>Ward(s) Affected</b>	All Wards
<b>Exempt</b>	No
<b>Exemption Reason</b>	Not applicable
<b>Corporate Priority</b>	This item is not in the current list of Corporate Priorities but still requires a Council decision
<b>Recommendations</b>	<b>Council is asked to consider the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel on the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2023-24, as set out in full in the attached report.</b>
<b>Reason for Recommendation</b>	<b>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.</b>

## 1. Summary of the report

1.1 This report provides Council with advice from the Independent Remuneration Panel on its review of the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2023-24. The Panel has recommended increases in the Basic Allowance for all councillors and the Special Responsibility Allowances for specific councillor roles, of 2% in line with the average senior management staff pay increase for 2023-24.

## 2. Key issues

2.1 The Independent Remuneration Panel met on 12 October 2023 to review the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2023-24.

2.2 It is a matter for the Council to decide the level of members' allowances under the Spelthorne Members' Allowances Scheme.

2.3 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.

2.4 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.

### **3. Options analysis and proposal**

- 3.1 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 9 of the report.

### **4. Financial implications**

- 4.1 The annual budget for Members' Allowances for 2022-23 was £360,209. Taking into account the proposed increases in the Basic Allowance and Special Responsibility Allowances in 2023-24, the Scheme recommended by the Panel requires an increase in the budget of £6899 to £367,108 for 2023-24.
- 4.2 It is noted that should Council agree a reduction in the number of established Committees, following a review of the current Committee System, this could potentially result in fewer roles being awarded a special responsibility allowance. This may lead to a consequent reduction in the overall budget for member allowances.
- 4.3 At such time as Council agrees any changes to the Committee System which may impact member allowances, the Independent Remuneration Panel will undertake a further review and report to Council on its recommendations and the financial implications.

### **5. Risk Considerations**

- 5.1 There are none.

### **6. Procurement Considerations**

- 6.1 There are none.

### **7. Legal Considerations**

- 7.1 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.

### **8. Other considerations**

- 8.1 There are none.

### **9. Equality and Diversity**

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

### **10. Sustainability/Climate Change Implications**

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

### **11. Timetable for implementation**

- 11.1 Subject to Council approval on 19 October 2023, the change to the level of Basic Allowance will be backdated to 1 April 2023. Those members who were first elected on 4 May 2023, will receive the increase on a pro-rata basis.
- 11.1 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.

## **12. Contact**

- 12.1 Gillian Scott, [g.scott@spelthorne.gov.uk](mailto:g.scott@spelthorne.gov.uk)

**Background papers:** There are none.

## **Appendices:**

Appendix 1 - Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel – October 2023

Appendix 2 - List of Approved Duties