

Council

18 July 2024



Title	Amendment to Members' Allowances Scheme 2024-25
Purpose of the report	To make a Decision
Report Author	Gillian Scott, Corporate Governance Support Officer
Ward(s) Affected	All Wards
Exempt	No
Exemption Reason	Not applicable
Corporate Priority	This item is not in the current list of Corporate Priorities but still requires a Committee decision.
Recommendations	That Council: Agrees the recommendation of the Independent Remuneration Panel to pay an annual allowance of £2000 to the Independent member of the Commercial Assets Sub-Committee.
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

What is the situation	Why we want to do something
<ul style="list-style-type: none">The Members' Allowances Scheme (the Scheme) makes provision for payment of a Special Responsibility Allowance of £2000 to each of the elected members of the Commercial Assets Sub-Committee.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The Corporate Policy and Resources Committee agreed to appoint an Independent member to the Commercial Assets Sub-Committee.There is currently no provision in the Scheme to pay an allowance to this new Independent member.
This is what we want to do about it	These are the next steps
<ul style="list-style-type: none">It is a matter for the Council to decide the level of members' allowances under the Scheme, having given proper consideration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">An advertisement will be placed seeking applications for an Independent member on Commercial Assets Sub-Committee

to the Independent Remuneration Panel's recommendations.	with the role receiving an allowance agreed by Council.
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1.1 This report provides Council with advice from the Independent Remuneration Panel (the Panel) on the amount of an allowance to be paid to the Independent member of the Commercial Assets Sub-Committee.

2. Key issues

2.1 At the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on 3 June 2024 it was agreed to establish the Commercial Assets Sub-Committee with a membership of 6 councillors and one Independent Member.

2.2 The Independent Member will be recruited from the community, may not be appointed as Chair or Vice-Chair of the Sub-Committee and will not have voting rights.

2.3 Following its review of Members Allowances for 2024-2025 the Panel recommended, and the Council agreed, a Special Responsibility Allowance to members of the Commercial Assets Sub-Committee of £2000.

2.4 This recommendation was based on evidence that the proposed responsibilities of this Sub-Committee were significant in terms of the decisions members will make on the Council's investment assets involving large rents and property values.

2.5 The Panel did not consider, or recommend at that time, an allowance for the Independent member of the Sub-Committee.

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

2.7 The function of the Panel is to provide the Council with advice on the type of its allowances and the amounts to be paid.

2.8 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.

3. Options analysis and proposal

3.1 The Panel considered the terms of reference of the Sub-Committee, the frequency with which it will meet and the person specification for the role of Independent member on the Commercial Assets Sub-Committee.

3.2 The Panel considered the role of the Independent member on Audit Committee, being the closest existing role to this new role, the frequency with which that Committee meets and the fact that members of the Audit Committee do not receive a special responsibility allowance.

3.3 The Panel agreed to recommend an allowance for the Independent member on the Commercial Assets Sub-Committee equal to that paid to the elected members of the Sub-Committee of £2000.

3.4 However, the Council does not have to approve the recommendations made by the Panel. Council may choose to agree an alternative amount.

4. Financial management comments

- 4.1 Although the current approved budget for Members' Allowances for 2024-25 is £372,100, under the existing Scheme the expected costs for the year will be around £361,700. If the recommendation is agreed for the additional £2000 it would increase the expected annual cost under the Scheme to £363,700 which remains within the budget.

5. Risk management comments

- 5.1 There are none.

6. Procurement comments

- 6.1 There are none.

7. Legal comments

- 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 Remuneration may encourage applications for the role from a wider section of the community.

10. Sustainability/Climate Change Implications

- 10.1 There are no impacts on sustainability or climate change arising from this recommendation.

11. Timetable for implementation

- 11.1 Following the Council's decision on the allowance to be paid, an advertisement will be placed seeking applications for an Independent member on Commercial Assets Sub-Committee.
- 11.2 The annual allowance agreed by Council will be paid on a pro-rata basis from the time of appointment.
- 11.3 In accordance with the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 the amended Scheme will be published on the Council's website with details of the amounts payable in respect of each allowance.

12. Contact

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

Background papers: There are none.

Appendices: There are none.