

Bolsover District Council

Council

29/03/2017

MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

Report of the Monitoring Officer and Solicitor to the Council

This report is public.

Purpose of the Report

- To consider the Recommendations made by the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) in their report with regard to Members' Allowances for the 2017/18 municipal year. This was not a full review of the Members' Allowance Scheme.
- Council at their meeting on 13th July 2017 resolved the appointment of persons to the IRP and the remit to which they should work, as set out in 1.3 of this report.

1 Report Details

- 1.1 Bolsover District Council's Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP), has carried out a review of the Council's Scheme of Members' Allowances.
- 1.2 The IRP comprised of:
 - ❖ Mrs Susan Ambler, Head of Financial Accounting and Control at the University of Derby
 - ❖ Mr Gordon Inglis, Head Teacher at Bolsover School
 - ❖ Mrs Joanne Hill, Asset, Strategy and Development Manager at South Yorkshire Housing Association
- 1.3 The Panel were given the following remit:
 - ❖ To consider whether the Special Responsibility Allowances for the Chair and Vice Chair of Licensing Committee are adequate; and
 - ❖ To consider whether all allowances should be index linked to staff salaries (to apply a 1% increase to all allowances for 2016/17 and 2017/8)
- 1.4 The details of the recommendations made by the Independent Remuneration Panel are set out in their report as attached as Appendix 1.
- 1.5 The information considered by the Panel, and detailed within their report is attached as Appendix 2. The details of this information is set out clearly within the Panel's report.

2 Conclusions and Reasons for Recommendation

- 2.1 The Panel's conclusions and reasons for their recommendations are set out in section 4 of their report as appended.

3 Consultation and Equality Impact

- 3.1 The Bolsover District Council Independent Remuneration Panel consulted the Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing, which includes the Licensing function, and the Leader of the Council within its deliberations
- 3.2 Factual information was provided on request to the Bolsover IRP by the officers supporting their meetings.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 4.1 The recommendations made propose that the current SRA levels paid to the Chairman and Vice Chairman of Licensing Committee are retained.

Chairman of Licensing Committee	£2,445.00
Vice Chairman of Licensing Committee	£1,222.00
	£3,667.00

If Members determined on alternatives and aligned the SRA with the Chair and Vice Chair of Scrutiny Committee, the following SRAs would be paid.

Chairman of Licensing Committee	£3,260.48
Vice Chairman of Licensing Committee	£1,630.24
	£4,890.72

This would create an overall increase to the Members Allowance Scheme of: £1223.72. This would be met from existing budget resources.

- 4.2 The recommendations made propose that the Members Allowance Scheme should not be index linked with staff salaries. This effectively proposes that the current payments, as set out in the Members Allowance Scheme remain as agreed without increase.

If Members were inclined to refuse the recommendation made and align the SRA and Basic Allowance payments with the 1% increase for staff salaries the following payments would apply:

Members' Allowance Scheme						
Special Responsibility Allowances as at 1 April 2017						
Post		No	Current Scheme £	Backdated 1% increase costs £	Index Linked cost for 17/18 £	Backdated plus Index Linked Cost for 17/18 £
Executive	Leader	1	14,672.16	14,818.88	14,818.88	14,967.07
	Deputy Leader	1	9,781.44	9,879.25	9,879.25	9,978.04
	Other Executive Members	6	4,890.72 (29,344.32)	4,939.93 (29,639.58)	4,939.93 (29,639.58)	4,989.33 (29,935.97)
Scrutiny	Chair	3	3,260.48 (9,781.44)	3,293.08 (9,879.24)	3,293.08 (9,879.24)	3,326.01 (9,978.03)
	Vice Chair	3	1,630.24 (4,890.72)	1,646.54 (4,939.62)	1,646.54 (4,939.62)	1,663.01 (4,989.02)
Standards	Chair	1	1,222.00	1,234.22	1,234.22	1,246.56
Planning	Chair	1	4890.72	4,939.63	4,939.63	4,989.03
	Vice Chair	1	2,445.00	2,469.45	2,469.45	2,494.14
Licensing	Chair	1	2,445.00	2,469.45	2,469.45	2,494.14
	Vice Chair	1	1,222.00	1,234.22	1,234.22	1,246.56
Audit	Chair	1	1,467.00	1,481.67	1,481.67	1,496.49
Main Opposition Group	Leader	1	4,890.72	4,939.63	4,939.63	4,989.03
Basic Allowance	All Members	37	9902.44 (366,390.28)	10,001.46 (370,054.02)	10,001.46 (370,054.02)	10,101.47 (373,754.53)
TOTALS:			453,442.80	457,978.86	457,978.86	462,558.61

5 Implications

5.1 Finance and Risk Implications

- 5.1.1 If accepted, the IRP recommendations have no financial implications for the authority.
- 5.1.2 However, as set out in Section 4, should Members resolve to increase the SRA for Chair and Vice Chair of Licensing in line with Scrutiny, an overall increase to the Members Allowance Scheme of **£1223.72** would apply.
- 5.1.3 If Members were to resolve a 1% backdated allowance in line with staff salaries an overall increase to the Members Allowance Scheme of **£4,536.06** would apply.
- 5.1.4 A 1% increase in line with staff salaries gives an overall increase to the Members Allowance Scheme of **£4,536.06** would apply.
- 5.1.5 If Members were to resolve both a 1% backdated allowance and a further 1% increase in line with staff salaries an overall increase to the Members Allowance Scheme of **£9115.81** would apply.
- 5.1.6 Should Members resolve for all the alternative options to be implemented the to increase to the SRA for Chair and Vice Chair of Licensing (to a cost of £4989.02) an overall increase to the Members Allowance Scheme of £1322.02 would apply in addition to the figures set out in 5.1.5 – a total of **£10,437.833**.

5.2 Legal Implications including Data Protection

- 5.2.1 In making the decisions, the Council must take account the requirements of The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 in particular the duty to have regard to the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel before making an amendment to the Members Allowance Scheme

5.3 Human Resources Implications

- 5.3.1 None

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 That Members consider the Independent Remuneration Panel's recommendations as set out within section 4 of their report.

7 Decision Information

Is the decision a Key Decision? (A Key Decision is an executive decision which results in income or expenditure to the Council of £50,000 or more or which has a significant impact on two or more District wards)	No
--	----

Is the decision subject to Call-In? (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)	N/A
District Wards Affected	N/A
Links to Corporate Plan priorities or Policy Framework	N/A

8 Document Information

Appendix No	Title
1	Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel
2	Information provided to the Independent Remuneration Panel during the 2017 review.
Background Papers (These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Cabinet (NEDDC) or Executive (BDC) you must provide copies of the background papers)	
2014 Review of Members' Allowances	
Report Author	Contact Number
Nicola Calver, Governance Manager	(01246) 217753

Report Reference –