

Bolsover District Council

Meeting of Council on 22nd May 2024

Independent Remuneration Panel

Report of the Director of Governance and Legal Services & Monitoring Officer

Classification	This report is Public
Report By	Jim Fieldsend, Director of Governance and Legal Services & Monitoring Officer

PURPOSE/SUMMARY OF REPORT

- To receive and consider the recommendation of the Independent Remuneration Panel.

REPORT DETAILS

Background

- 1.1 In accordance with The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulation 2003 (the Regulations) a local authority must establish a scheme in order to pay its Members the following allowances:
 - A basic allowance.
 - Special responsibility allowances.
 - Dependent carers' allowance.
 - Travelling & subsistence allowances.
- 1.2 The scheme can also provide for a mechanism for an annual adjustment by reference to a specific index. If a scheme contains such an index, it must be reviewed every four years.
- 1.3 A copy of the current Members Allowance Scheme is shown at Appendix 1.
- 1.4 Before a local authority adopts or makes changes to its allowance scheme it is required to set up an Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) of at least 3 people. The role of the panel is to provide recommendations on the scheme and the local authority must have regard to those recommendations when making or amending the scheme.
- 1.5 On 2nd August 2023 the Council agreed to the establishment of an IRP to review the current scheme.

2 Details of Proposal or Information

- 2.1 The IRP met on a number of occasions in 2023 and 2024 and have produced the attached report at Appendix 1. Their recommendations and reasons of the IRP are set out in the report. In summary the IRP have recommended no change to the allowances.
- 2.2 Members are required to consider whether to accept the IRP's recommendation.

3 Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 Council on 2nd August 2023 authorised the establishment of the panel and asked for it to review the Members Allowance Scheme as a whole.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 4.1 There are no alternative options.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. Each recommendation of the Independent Panel is considered and a decision is made on whether to adopt or not to adopt that recommendation.
2. That the Director of Governance and Legal Services & Monitoring Officer be delegated authority to amend the Members Allowance Scheme in line with Council's decision and to publish the new scheme as required.

Approved by Councillor Steve Fritchley, Leader of the Council

IMPLICATIONS.

Finance and Risk: Yes No

Details: There are no additional financial implications arising from this report as it is written.

On behalf of the Section 151 Officer

Legal (including Data Protection): Yes No

Details: In accordance with The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulation 2003 the Council must consider the recommendation of its Independent Remuneration Panel before making changes to the Members' Allowance Scheme.

On behalf of the Solicitor to the Council

Environment: Yes No

Please identify (if applicable) how this proposal/report will help the Authority meet its carbon neutral target or enhance the environment

Details: There are no environmental implications contained within this report.

Staffing: Yes No

Details: There are no staffing implications contained within this report.

On behalf of the Head of Paid Service

DECISION INFORMATION

Is the decision a Key Decision? A Key Decision is an executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more District wards or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds: Revenue - £75,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Capital - £150,000 <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i>	No
Is the decision subject to Call-In? <i>(Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)</i>	No

District Wards Significantly Affected	(please state which wards or state All if all wards are affected)
Consultation: Leader / Deputy Leader <input type="checkbox"/> Executive <input type="checkbox"/> SLT <input type="checkbox"/> Relevant Service Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Members <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>	Details:

Links to Council Ambition: Customers, Economy and Environment.

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

Appendix No	Title
1	Bolsover District Council Members' Allowance Scheme
2	Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel

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 Executive, you must provide copies of the background papers).

None