

Division(s): N/A

COUNCIL – 4 MAY 2020

MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME 2020/21

Report by Director of Law and Governance

RECOMMENDATION

Council is RECOMMENDED to:

- (a) to agree that the Members' Scheme of Allowances for 2020/21 should be the same as that which applied during 2019/20;**
- (b) to hold a further review of allowances once the business of the Council has sufficiently returned to normal following the COVID-19 pandemic, and in any case ahead of the May 2021 County elections.**

Introduction

1. Each year, the Council must approve a Members' Allowances Scheme. Before doing so it must consider the views of its Independent Remuneration Panel.
2. The COVID-19 restrictions on holding meetings have legally prevented Council from meeting until now to consider adopting a Scheme for 2020/21. Councillor and senior manager resources have also been necessarily diverted on addressing the demands of the pandemic. Given the critical work facing the Council and our communities at this time, a fuller review by a Panel, and then consideration of that by Council, is not feasible.
3. However, in law, a Scheme now needs to be adopted.

Adopting a scheme – status quo

4. The views of the Independent Remuneration Panel have been sought. Given the current situation, the Panel is supportive of a 'status quo' arrangement to meet the legal requirement. This would mean that the nature and levels of allowances applicable during 2019/20 should be adopted again and 'roll over' to form the 2020/21 Scheme until such time as the Council is able to conduct a fuller review, post-COVID.
5. That being the case, Council is being invited to agree to this. Annex 1 indicates what these allowances would therefore be. A roll-over of the 2019/20 scheme would mean that the basic and special responsibility allowances, the travel and subsistence arrangements, the carer and childcare allowances, and the indexing to the pay award for staff, would continue unchanged.
6. The Independent Remuneration Panel stands ready and willing to undertake a fuller review, which would otherwise have been required, once circumstances allow.

NICK GRAHAM

Director of Law and Governance

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glenn.watson@oxfordshire.gov.uk**Annex 1 – Members’ Allowances 2020/21**

Allowances	Annual Allowance
Basic Allowance	10,719.00
Leader of the Council	31,086.00
Deputy Leader	21,438.00
Cabinet Member	17,151.00
Chairman of the Council	9,111.00
Opposition Leader	8,575.00
Audit & Governance Committee Chairman	6,432.00
Audit Working Group Chairman	6,432.00
Planning & Regulation Committee Chairman	6,432.00
Pension Chairman	6,432.00
Scrutiny Chairman	6,432.00
Horton Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee Chairman	4,824.00
Shadow Cabinet Member	2,680.00
Vice Chairman of the Council	2,278.00
Locality Chairman	536.00
Police & Crime Panel Chairman	6,432.00
Police & Crime Panel Vice-Chairman	3,216.00
Police & Crime Panel Member	1,608.00

Carers Allowances:

- Child care - £6 per hour;
- Care for an adult dependent relative - £17 per hour.

Travel & subsistence and index:

“The amounts payable shall be the amounts which are for the time being payable to officers of the Council in respect of travelling and subsistence undertaken in the course of their duties”; “The basic and special responsibility allowances and the co-optee’s allowance (to the Chairman of the Audit Working Group), shall be amended annually by reference to the annual pay settlement for local government staff.”