

# Report of the North Tyneside Independent Remuneration Panel

January 2024

## Executive Summary

The views of the Independent Remuneration Panel are required to be taken into account by the Council when considering any changes to the Members' Allowances Scheme. The Panel has been requested to consider and make recommendations in relation to the Members' Allowances Scheme for the 2024/25 financial year.

The Panel **recommends** that the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2024/25 remain unchanged. The Panel also recommends that a further detailed review is undertaken in May 2024, with that review reported to Council in July 2024.

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 require all local authorities in England to establish and maintain an Independent Remuneration Panel. The Independent Remuneration Panel must comprise of at least three members, none of whom can be an elected member of the Authority or an individual who would be disqualified from being or becoming a member of the Authority.

1.2 Regulation 21 of the above-referenced regulations states that the Independent Remuneration Panel is responsible for producing a report in relation to the authority or authorities in respect of which it was established, making recommendations relating to the following:

- (a) The responsibilities or duties in respect of which the following allowances should be available:
  - Special Responsibility Allowance
  - Travelling and subsistence allowance
  - Co-optees' allowance
- (b) The amount of such allowances, and the amount of basic allowance
- (c) Whether dependants' carers allowance should be payable to members of an authority and the amount of such an allowance
- (d) Whether, if the scheme is amended at any time so as to affect an allowance payable for the year in which the amendment is made, payment of allowances may be backdated in accordance with regulation 10(6)
- (e) Whether adjustments to an allowance may be determined according to an index and if so which index and how long that index should apply, subject to a maximum of four years, before its application is reviewed

- (f) Which members of an Authority are to be entitled to pensions in accordance with a scheme made under Section 7 of the Superannuation Act 1972
- (g) Whether to treat basic allowances or special responsibility allowance, or both, as amounts in respect of which such pensions are payable in accordance with a scheme made under section 7 of the Superannuation Act 1972.

1.3 The current Panel comprises of Mr John Anderson CBE, Mr Les Watson and Dr Rachid Zemouri.

## 2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 The Panel is requested to give consideration to the current Members' Allowances Scheme and to make recommendations on the level of allowance for 2024/25.

## 3.0 MEMBERS' ALLOWANCE SCHEME

3.1 The Panel considered the Members' Allowances Scheme to determine if it was still set at an appropriate level.

3.2 The Independent Remuneration Panel gave consideration to a range of options in respect of the 2024/25 year. Having done so, the Panel does not consider that there should be any change to the allowances payable.

3.4 The panel proposes that a more detailed consultation on member allowances should takes place at the beginning of the new municipal year in May 2024, with a view to bringing a further report to full Council in July 2024.

#### 4.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND REFERENCES

- The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003
- Previous reports of the Remuneration Panel
- Member's Allowances Schemes of Tyne and Wear Authorities.
- Local Government Act 1972
- North Tyneside Council Constitution
- North Tyneside Members Allowances Scheme