

# North Tyneside Council

## Report to Council

### Date: 18 January 2024

Title: Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel

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Portfolio(s): Deputy Mayor	Cabinet Member(s): Cllr Carl Johnson
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Report from Service Area: Governance

Responsible Officer: Jon Ritchie,  
Director of Resources

Wards affected: All

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#### PART 1

##### 1.1 Executive Summary:

This report requests full Council to consider the recommendation of the Independent Remuneration Panel in relation to the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2024/25.

The Authority is required to have in place a Members' Allowance Scheme and is required to have regard to the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel when determining such a Scheme.

##### 1.2 Recommendation(s):

It is recommended that Council:

- (1) agree the Authority's Members' Allowances Scheme for 2024/25; and
- (2) agree that the Independent Remuneration Panel undertake an in-depth review of the Authority's Members Allowances Scheme and that Council

receives and considers a report in July 2024 following the completion of that review.

### **1.3 Forward Plan:**

Twenty-eight days notice of this report has been given and it first appeared on the Forward Plan that was published on 8 December 2023.

### **1.4 Council Plan and Policy Framework**

This report does not directly relate to the Our North Tyneside Plan priorities or to the Policy Framework, but is required to ensure that the Authority complies with legislative requirements.

### **1.5 Information:**

#### **1.5.1 Background**

#### **Independent Remuneration Panel**

Each local authority is required to establish and maintain an Independent Remuneration Panel. The purpose of the Panel is to make recommendations to full Council about the allowances to be paid to Elected Members.

The members of the Panel are Mr John Anderson CBE, Mr Les Watson and Dr Rachid Zemouri.

#### **Panel's Recommendation**

The Authority is required to renew its Members' Allowance Scheme before the beginning of each financial year.

Under the Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 the Authority is required to have regard to the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel when considering any changes to its Members' Allowances Scheme.

In November 2022, full Council considered the Independent Remuneration Panel's recommendation that the application of the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2023/24 should remain unchanged but that the level of allowance increase in line with the median pay point of the annual pay award for employees working under the National Joint Council for Local Government Services National

Agreement on Pay and Conditions of Service. Having considered that recommendation, full Council unanimously decided that the Members' Allowance Scheme for 2023/24 would remain unchanged and that allowances paid to Members would continue to be paid at the 2022/23 level.

The Independent Remuneration Panel met on 21 November 2023 to consider the Allowance Scheme in operation, as part of the requirement to review the Allowance Scheme each year. Having done so, the Independent Remuneration Panel was minded to recommend no change to the Authority's existing arrangements for 2024/25. However, the Independent Remuneration Panel proposed that a further in-depth review of the Members Allowances Scheme be undertaken in May 2024, with a report taken to full Council in July 2024 following the completion of that review.

The Independent Remuneration Panel's report following its review of the Members' Allowance Scheme in November 2023 is appended to this report.

## **1.6 Decision options:**

The following decision options are available for consideration by Council:

### Option 1

Approve the recommendation set out in paragraph 1.2 of this report

### Option 2

Not to approve the recommendation set out in paragraph 1.2 of this report and to refer the matter back to the Independent Remuneration Panel for further consideration of specific issues identified by Council

## **1.7 Reasons for recommended option:**

Option 1 is recommended for the following reasons:

The Authority is required to have in place a Members' Allowances Scheme before 1 April each year having had regard to the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel.

By agreeing to an in-depth review of the Members' Allowance Scheme in 2024 and to receiving a further report at the conclusion of that review, full Council

will be able to consider the issues raised by the Independent Remuneration Panel at the conclusion of its review.

## **1.8 Appendices:**

Appendix: Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel November 2023.

## **1.9 Contact officers:**

Allison Mitchell, Head of Governance (0191) 643 5720

David Mason, Head of Finance (0191) 643 8109

## **1.10 Background information:**

The following background papers/information have been used in the compilation of this report and are available at the office of the author:

North Tyneside Council Constitution (Version 27 agreed by Council 18 May 2023)

North Tyneside Members' Allowances Scheme as agreed by Council on 24 November 2022

Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 (as amended).

## **PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING**

### **2.1 Finance and other resources**

2.1.1 The payment of Members' allowances under the proposed Members Allowance Scheme for 2023/24 and 2024/25 will be met from existing budgets.

### **2.2 Legal**

2.2.1 The report sets out the legal basis for the provision of the Members' Allowance Scheme.

The setting of the Members' Allowance Scheme is a matter for full Council.

### **2.3 Consultation/community engagement**

2.3.1 Internal Consultation

The Elected Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Director of Resources were consulted as part of the Independent Remuneration Panel's preparation of this report.

### 2.3.2 External Consultation/Engagement

There has been no external consultation or engagement on the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel.

## 2.4 Human rights

2.4.1 The proposals within this report do not have any direct implications in respect of the Human Rights Act 1998.

## 2.5 Equalities and diversity

2.5.1 There are no direct equalities or diversity implications arising from this report.

## 2.6 Risk management

2.6.1 Any risks associated with the matters set out in this report will be managed in accordance with the North Tyneside Council risk management process.

## 2.7 Crime and disorder

2.7.1 There are no direct crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

## 2.8 Environment and sustainability

2.8.1 There are no direct environment and sustainability implications arising from this report.

## PART 3 - SIGN OFF

- Chief Executive
- Director(s) of Service
- Mayor/Cabinet Member(s)

- Chief Finance Officer  x
- Monitoring Officer  x
- Assistant Chief Executive  x