

North Tyneside Council

Report to Council

Date: 18 March 2021

Title: Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel

Portfolio(s): Elected Mayor	Cabinet Member(s): Mrs N Redfearn	
Report from Service Area:	Law and Governance	
Responsible Officer:	Bryn Roberts, Head of Law and Governance	Tel: (0191) 643 5339
Wards affected:	All	

PART 1

1.1 Executive Summary:

This report requests the Council to consider the recommendation of the Independent Remuneration Panel in relation to the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2021/22.

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

1.2 Recommendation(s):

It is recommended that Council:

- (1) consider the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel; and
- (2) agree a Scheme of Members' Allowances for 2021/22.

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 January 2021.

1.4 Council Plan and Policy Framework

This report has no direct relevance to the Authority's Our North Tyneside Plan priorities or to the Policy Framework.

1.5 Information

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, formerly of the Audit Commission and Dr Rachid Zemouri, Managing Director of ICAS Limited.

The Council is required to renew its Members' Allowance Scheme for each financial year.

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

The level of Members' Allowances has been reviewed and consideration has been given to the current position regarding Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances. The Panel's recommendation is to make no changes to the level of allowances.

In previous years it has been agreed that Members' allowances will be index linked to the annual pay award for employees working under the National Joint Council for Local Government Services National Agreement on Pay and Conditions of Service.

The Panel considered the continuation of the index linked approach and its recommendation is to continue on this basis for the 2021/22 financial year.

The Panel will continue to monitor the Members' Allowances Scheme to ensure that the allowances reflect the level of duty/responsibility in the future.

1.6 Decision options:

The following decision options are available for consideration by Council:

Option 1

Approve the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel;

Option 2

Refer the matter back to the Independent Remuneration Panel for further consideration of specific issues identified by Council; or

Option 3

Defer consideration of the matter to obtain appropriate advice on the implications of any alternative proposals.

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.

1.8 Appendices:

Appendix: Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel 18 March 2021.

1.9 Contact officers:

Paul Wheeler, Democratic Services Officer, Law and Governance
Claire Emmerson, Senior Manager Financial Planning and Strategy

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
- North Tyneside Members' Allowances Scheme
- Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 (as amended).

PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING

2.1 Finance and other resources

The payment of Members' allowances under the proposed Members Allowance Scheme for 2021/22, will be met from existing budgets in Law and Governance.

2.2 Legal

The report sets out the legal basis for the provision of the Members' Allowance Scheme. As there is no change to the proposed scheme there are no additional legal issues that arise.

2.3 Consultation/community engagement

2.3.1 Internal Consultation

The Elected Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Head of Law and Governance have been consulted as part of the Independent Remuneration Panel's preparation of the 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

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

2.5 Equalities and diversity

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

2.6 Risk management

The risks associated with this report will be managed in accordance with the North Tyneside Council risk management process.

2.7 Crime and disorder

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

2.8 Environment and sustainability

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

PART 3 - SIGN OFF

- Chief Executive X
- Head(s) of Service X
- Mayor/Cabinet Member(s) X
- Chief Finance Officer X
- Monitoring Officer X
- Head of Corporate Strategy and Customer Service X

Report of the North Tyneside Independent Remuneration Panel

18 March 2021

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 2021/22 financial year.

The Panel **recommends** that the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2021/22 remain unchanged.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Remuneration Panel was initially appointed in 2003 under the provisions of the Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003. These regulations replaced the Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2001.

1.2 The Terms of Reference are as follows: -

- a) To consider issues and representations relating to Members' allowances and expenses.
- b) To make recommendations and provide advice to the Council

1.3 The current Panel comprises of Mr John Anderson CBE, Mr Les Watson, formerly of the Audit Commission and Dr Rachid Zemouri, Managing Director of ICAS Limited

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 2021/22.

3.0 MEMBERS' ALLOWANCE SCHEME

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

3.2 In previous years it has been agreed that Members' allowances will be index linked to the annual pay award for employees working under the National Joint Council for Local Government Services National Agreement on Pay and Conditions of Service.

3.3 The Panel considered the continuation of the index linked approach and its recommendation is to continue on this basis for the 2021/22 financial year.

3.4 The Panel **recommends** that the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2021/22 remain unchanged.

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, Mayoral Authorities and Statistical Neighbours
- Local Government Act 1972
- North Tyneside Council Constitution
- North Tyneside Members Allowances Scheme