

15 March 2023

SCHEME OF COUNCILLORS' ALLOWANCES 2023/24

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Exempt / confidential / not for publication	No
Council Plan reference	Not in Council Plan
Wards affected	All wards

Executive summary

On 18 January 2023, Council resolved to [dissolve Corporate Parenting Panel](#) as a Committee of Council. Consequently, the Special Responsibility Allowance paid to the Chair was ceased, pending a recommendation from the Council's Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP).

Subsequently a [delegated decision was taken on 28 February 2023](#) to agree Terms of Reference for Corporate Parenting Panel as a Cabinet Advisory Group.

The Council's IRP met on Friday 10 March 2023 to consider and make a recommendation in respect of whether a Special Responsibility Allowance should continue to be paid to the Chair of Corporate Parenting Panel. Their recommendation is set out in paragraph 2.4 of this report.

1. Decision/s to be made

- 1.1 That the recommendation of the IRP that a Special Responsibility Allowance be paid to the Chair of the Corporate Parenting Panel - Cabinet Advisory Group at Tier 7 rate (£5,024 pro rata'd for the remainder of 2022/23 and £5,260 for 2023/24), be noted and agreed.
- 1.2 That the [unchanged Scheme of Allowances for 2023/24](#), previously agreed by Council on 18 January 2023, be noted.

2. Why is the decision needed?

- 2.1 Under the terms of the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003, the Council is required, before the beginning of each year, to agree the scheme for the payment of basic allowance to each member of the authority for that year. Council agreed a revised scheme for 2023/24 in January 2023.
- 2.2 At the time the revised scheme was agreed, the Council had also agreed to dissolve Corporate Parenting Panel as a Committee of Council, so the position in respect of a Special Responsibility Allowance payment for the successor body was effectively deferred until March 2023.
- 2.4 Since January a successor body has been agreed as a Cabinet Advisory Group. The Council's IRP met to consider the position on Friday 10 March 2023 and considered a range of information and evidence. Their recommendation was as follows:

'The Panel was of the view that under the revised Terms of Reference the size and complexity of the role would not in any way diminish and that the role will continue to have a significant impact that warrants a Tier Seven SRA'.

Council will now need to make a decision in respect of this matter, having considered the recommendation.

3. Implications of the decision

Financial	Y	Human rights, equalities, diversity	
Legal	Y	Policies or Council Plan	
Communication		Procurement	
Energy Efficiency		Workforce	

a) Financial implications

There are no financial implications as the provision for a SRA for the Chair of Corporate Parenting Panel was provided (and budgeted) for as part of the Scheme of Allowances previously agreed for 2023/24.

b) Legal implications

The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 make it a requirement to establish and maintain an Independent Remuneration Panel.

Under the terms of the Local Government Act 2000, the Council is required to take account of the recommendations of an independent panel before fixing its level of Councillors' Allowances.

c) Other implications

None.

4. Alternatives

- 4.1 The Council could decide not to accept the recommendation of the IRP, choosing to not pay a Special Responsibility Allowance for the Chair of Corporate Parenting Panel – Cabinet Advisory Group, or could agree an alternative rate.

5. Timetable for implementation

- 5.1 If agreed the SRA will take effect when the new Corporate Parenting Panel – Cabinet Advisory Group, meet and elect a new Chair. There is a meeting planned for 28 March 2023.

List of annexes:

None

List of background papers:

None