

UPDATED REPORT

COUNCIL MEETING, 9 NOVEMBER 2023

REPORT OF THE Employment in Hampshire County Council Committee PART I

1. REVIEW OF THE MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME 2023/24

- 1.1. The legislative framework governing the payment of Members' Allowances is set out in the Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 (as amended) ('the Members' Allowances Regulations').
- 1.2. Under the provisions of the Members' Allowances Regulations the County Council is required to make a Scheme ('Members' Allowances Scheme') for the payment of Members' Allowances each year. A Members' Allowances Scheme needs to make provision for Basic Allowances, Special Responsibility Allowances ('SRAs'), Dependents' Carers' Allowances, Travelling and Subsistence Allowances and Co-optees' Allowances.
- 1.3. Once a Members' Allowances Scheme is made for any year it may be amended during the year in question in accordance with the Members' Allowances Regulations. It is also possible under the Members' Allowances Regulations for any amendment to the Members' Allowances Scheme to be backdated to the beginning of the financial year in which any such amendment is made.
- 1.4. By virtue of the Members' Allowances Regulations, before the County Council can make or amend a Members' Allowances Scheme, it is required to have regard to recommendations made in relation to it by an Independent Remuneration Panel ('IRP'). In this regard the IRP met on 7 September 2023.
- 1.5. The Employment in Hampshire County Council ('EHCC') Committee met on 2 November 2023 to consider the recommendations of the IRP, and to make recommendations to the County Council in respect of amendment (if appropriate) to the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2023/24. The report considered by EHCC, including the minutes of the IRP meeting can be viewed here [EHCC - 2 November 2023](#).

2. Amendment to Members' Allowances Scheme 2023/24

Recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel in relation to amendment of the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2023/24 are set out below, together with the EHCC Committee's views and conclusions on them.

UPDATED REPORT

2.1. 12-month review of Special Responsibility Allowance – Deputy Leader

Recommendation of the IRP

That there be no change to the current SRA for the Deputy Leader of the County Council.

Consideration of IRP Recommendation

The EHCC Committee supported the recommendation of the IRP.

2.2. 12-month review of Special Responsibility Allowance – Opposition Group Leaders

Recommendation of the IRP

That there be no change to the level of SRAs for the Opposition Group Leaders.

Consideration of IRP Recommendation

The EHCC Committee supported the recommendation of the IRP.

12-month review of Special Responsibility Allowance – Opposition Group Spokesperson

Recommendation of the IRP

That there be no change to the level of SRAs for Opposition Group Spokespersons.

Consideration of IRP Recommendation

The EHCC Committee supported the recommendation of the IRP.

2.3. Special Responsibility Allowance – Members of the Pension Fund Panel and Board

Recommendation of the IRP

That an SRA for members of the Pension Fund Panel and Board was not appropriate.

Consideration of IRP Recommendation

The EHCC Committee supported the recommendation of the IRP.

UPDATED REPORT

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the County Council, taking into account the recommendations of the IRP and the EHCC Committee, approves:

- a) No changes to the current SRA for the Deputy Leader of the Council.
- b) No changes to the current level of SRAs for the Opposition Group Leaders.
- c) No changes to the current level of SRAs for the Opposition Group Spokespersons.
- d) That no new SRA for Pension Fund Panel and Board members is created, and no other changes are made to the current Members' Allowances Scheme, save for the adjustments to Basic Allowances and SRAs with effect from 1 April 2023, in line with the recently agreed pay award of 3.88% for Senior Managers at Grade H, in accordance with the terms of the existing Scheme.

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