

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Report

Committee:	Independent Remuneration Panel
Date:	6 October 2022
Title:	Amendments to the Members' Allowances Scheme 2022/23
Report From:	Head of Legal and Governance and Monitoring Officer

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Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide information to the County Council's Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) to enable the IRP to make its recommendations on the following:
 - a) Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA) for the role of Deputy Leader of Hampshire County Council
 - b) Review of the SRA for Opposition Group Leaders and Opposition Spokespersons
 - c) Review of the SRA for the roles of:
 - Assistant to the Executive – Adult Services and Public Health
 - Assistant to the Executive – Children's Services
 - Chairman of the River Hamble Harbour Board

Recommendations

2. That the IRP consider whether an SRA should attach to the role listed in paragraph 1a) above and be backdated to the date of appointment, and whether the list of approved duties for the purposes of the payment of travelling and other relevant expenses should be amended accordingly to include provision of these roles.
3. That the IRP consider whether the current SRAs for the roles listed in 1b) and c) above should be amended.

Contextual information

4. The legislative framework governing the payment of Members' Allowances is set out in the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 (the Members' Allowances Regulations).
5. Under the provisions of the Members' Allowances Regulations, the County Council is required to make a Members' Allowances Scheme for the payment each year of Members' Allowances. Provision in respect of the current Members' Allowances for 2021/22 were determined by the County Council at its meeting on 22 February 2018. 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.
6. Information about the role and responsibilities of Deputy Leader of Hampshire County Council is provided at Appendix 1 to this report.
7. Statements about the roles of Opposition Group Special Responsibility Allowances have been submitted by the Leaders of the Labour Group, the Independent Group and the Liberal Democrat Group and can be found at Appendices 2a, 2b and 2c and to this report.
8. At its meeting on 29 September 2021 the Panel considered an SRA for the positions referred to in paragraph 1c) and recommended an SRA of £4,645 per annum being 25% of the SRA for an Executive Member that was applicable at the time. The Panel further recommended that the SRAs be reviewed in 12 months' time. Information about the work carried out in the last 12 months' is provided at Appendices 3a, 3b and 3c to this report.

Conclusions

9. The recommendations of the IRP will be considered by the County Council's Employment in Hampshire County Council Committee (EHCC) prior to a recommendation to the County Council.

REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Strategic Plan

This proposal does not link to the Strategic Plan but, nevertheless, requires a recommendation in consequence of the requirements of the Members' Allowances Regulations.

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:

<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
Amendments to the Members' Allowances Scheme 2021/22	29/09/2021
Members' Allowances Scheme - Assistant to the Executive: Adult Services and Public Health	29/09/2021
Members' Allowances Scheme - Assistant to the Executive: Children's Services	29/09/2021
Members' Allowances Scheme - Chairman of the River Hamble Harbour Board	29/09/2021
Members' Allowances Scheme - Assistant to the Executive	24/09/2019

Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives

<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations	2003

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:

1. Equality Duty

The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by or under the Act with regard to the protected characteristics as set out in section 4 of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation);
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (see above) and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

The recommendations in this report relate to the allowances paid for specific roles of individual elected Members and as such there is no impact on groups with protected characteristics.