



Council

24 January 2022

**RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION
PANEL - MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES FOR CIVIC YEAR 2022/2023**

Report by:

Monitoring Officer

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Purpose / Summary:

To review and consider the recommendations made by the Independent Remuneration Panel with regard to Members' allowances for 2022/2023 civic year.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

- (1) That Members approve the new rates as shown within this Report (Appendix 1), with regard to Members' allowances for the Civic Year 2022/2023:
 - A proposed increase of 1.5% to the individual Basic Allowance and Special Responsibility Allowances (SRA's).

IMPLICATIONS

Legal: None

Financial : FIN/136/22/VA

Pending approval from Full Council in January, the proposed changes will result in a saving of £3,900 compared to the 2022/2023 MTFP Budget.

| | Proposed Allowance (£) | 2022/2023 MTFP (£) | Saving in 2022/2023 (£) |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Basic Allowances | 224,700 | 228,100 | (3,400) |
| Special Responsibility Allowances | 63,700 | 64,200 | (500) |
| Total | 288,400 | 292,300 | (3,900) |

Staffing : None

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights : None

Risk Assessment : None

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities : None

Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

None

Call in and Urgency:

Is the decision one which Rule 14.7 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?

i.e. is the report exempt from being called in due to urgency (in consultation with C&I chairman)

Yes

No

x

Key Decision:

A matter which affects two or more wards, or has significant financial implications

Yes

No

x

1. Background

- 1.1 West Lindsey District Council's Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP), has carried out its annual review of the Council's Scheme of Members' Allowances.
- 1.2 To inform the review, the Panel has considered a number of factors. These include the financial and budgeting situation the Council faces, including a pay award increase of 1.5% (1.75% for 2021/2022 for Officers unconfirmed); a comparison of allowance rates payable at comparable Councils; the recommended increase for last year was rejected by Members resulting in rates staying static for 2021/2022 ; and the role allowances play in attracting prospective Councillors and upholding democratic processes.
- 1.3 The Panel consulted with all Members, providing the opportunity to make comments via email and also offered the opportunity for meeting with the Panel remotely via MS Teams. On 25 August 2021, four Members met independently with the Panel to give their views. Four further Members offered their comments in writing to the Panel.
- 1.4 The comments received by the Panel from Members have been taken into account when arriving at the final Recommendations within this report.
- 1.5 The Panel would like to record its thanks to those Members and Officers who made themselves available to speak with them.

2. Members' Allowances

- 2.1 Taking all factors into account, the Panel have recommended an increase across the board of 1.5% to Members' basic allowance and Special Responsibility Allowances (SRA's).
- 2.2 This increases the Members' basic allowance to £6,242 for the year 2022/2023, and equates to an extra amount of £1.77 per week per Member.
- 2.3 The Panel acknowledged that they recognised that non-decision making meetings involving Members were now held virtually via MS Teams, and that this was a positive step towards reducing both costs and the carbon footprint.

3. Mileage and Subsistence Allowances

- 3.1 No change to mileage allowances. The Panel noted and commented that mileage allowances are currently in line with the tax efficient rate authorised by the Inland Revenue.
- 3.2 No change to subsistence allowances as set out below. Receipts must be provided for subsistence claimed and attached to the claim form.
 - a. Absence of more than four hours but no more than eight hours – only the cost of one meal can be reimbursed up to a maximum of £15.

- b. Absence of more than eight hours but no more than 12 hours – only the cost of two meals can be reimbursed up to a maximum of £25.
- c. Absence of more than 12 hours but no more than 16 hours – only the cost of three meals can be reimbursed up to a maximum of £33.
- d. Absence of more than 16 hours but not including an overnight stay – only the cost of four meals can be reimbursed up to a maximum of £40.
- e. Overnight – No Change - £83
- f. Overnight (London or LGA) – No Change - £208

4. Financial Impact

- 4.1 The financial impact depending on whether Members are minded to accept the recommendation for the 1.5% increase to basic allowance/SRA's, amounts to £3,900 savings relative to the 2022/2023 MTFP budget.
- 4.2 The revised schedule of proposed allowances is set out in Appendix One.

5. Recommendation

- 5.1 The Panel recommends an increase of 1.5% to the basic allowance and Special Responsibility Allowances (SRA's) for 2022/2023.

Appendix One: Special Responsibility Allowances (SRA): Recommended Rates

| Allowance | Rate 2021/2022 | Proposed Rate 2022/2023 |
|---|---------------------------|--|
| Basic Allowance | £6,150 | £6,242 |
| SRA – Leader of Council | £12,425 | £12,611 |
| SRA – Deputy Leader/s (in the event of two or more being nominated, the payment to be shared) | £4,505 | £4,573 |
| SRA – Chair of Council | £3,980 | £4,040 |
| SRA – Vice-Chair of Council | £1,370 | £1,391 |
| Civic allowance for the Chairman of Council | £1,610 | £1,634 |
| Civic allowance for the Vice Chairman Of Council | £1,370 | £1,391 |
| SRA – Committee Chairs (excluding Licensing Cttee and Regulatory Cttee) | £3,105 | £3,152 |
| SRA – Regulatory Chair | £1,555 | £1,578 |
| SRA – Licensing Chair | £1,555 | £1,578 |
| SRA – Committee Vice-Chairs (excluding Licensing Cttee and Regulatory Cttee) | £1,470 | £1,492 |
| SRA – Regulatory Vice-Chair | £735 | £746 |
| SRA – Licensing Vice-Chair | £735 | £746 |
| SRA – Leader of the Opposition (in the | £4,505 | £4,573 |

event of the Council being a 'hung' Council, the Leaders of the two largest groups be paid the same special responsibility allowance as for the Leader of the Opposition)

| | | |
|--|------|-----------|
| SRA – Deputy Leader of the Opposition | £820 | £832 |
| SRA – Minority Group Leaders (per group member, and including the Group Leader) | £100 | £102 |
| Independent Members: Governance & Audit and Standards Committees – A payment of £60.00 for the first four hours of attendance at a meeting/event and a second payment for attendance in excess of four hours. The first four hours would commence from the start time of the meeting (To be paid when not chairing a meeting). | £60 | No change |
| Dependent Carer's Allowance | £10 | No Change |