

**REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL
IN RESPECT OF ALLOWANCES PAID TO
MEMBERS OF CHARNWOOD BOROUGH COUNCIL
2019-20**

THE PANEL

The Panel, which is appointed to make recommendations to the Council in respect of the allowances paid to Councillors, comprises the following members:

P. Cleere
G. Moss-Waghorn
P. Smith

REMIT

The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 require, amongst other things, that the Council has regard to the recommendations of an Independent Panel in agreeing allowances paid to Councillors.

Those Regulations require the Panel to produce a report making recommendations as to:

- The amount of basic allowance;
- Whether special responsibility allowances should be paid, and if so, the duties to which they should apply and the amounts of those allowances;
- Whether an allowance relating to the expense of arranging for the care of children or dependents should be available (carers' allowance) and, if so, the amount of that allowance;
- Whether travelling and subsistence allowances should be paid, and, if so, the duties for which they should be payable and the amounts of those allowances;
- Whether a basic allowance should be paid to co-opted members, and, if so, the amount of that allowance.

REPORT

This is the Independent Panel's report of its review of Members' Allowances for 2019/20. This report has been compiled and agreed by members of the Panel following meetings and consideration of the relevant issues between December 2018 and March 2019. The Head of Strategic Support attended the meetings to assist the Panel in consideration of these matters.

Link to Officer Pay Awards

As overall changes are now linked to officer pay awards, the Panel did not consider any general uplift. They noted that the 2% pay award agreed for officers for 2019/20 will be applied to the relevant Member allowances.

Allowances for the New Scrutiny Committee Structure

The proposals of the Panel in respect of special responsibility allowances for the new scrutiny committee structure are set out below (note: all figures quoted are at 2019/20 rates, ie with a 2% uplift from 2018/19)

Current Arrangements:

5 x Scrutiny Commissioners at £3,511 = £17,555
3 x Assistant Scrutiny Commissioners at £1,506 = £4,518

Current Total Costs: £22,073

New Arrangements:

Scrutiny Commission:

Chair's allowance: £3,761
Vice-chairs' allowance: £1,506

This is in-line with the Chair and Vice-chair of the current Plans Committee, and reflects the additional constitutional responsibilities attaching to the role of the Chair of the Scrutiny Commission, and the fact that the Scrutiny Commission will be meeting on a monthly basis (ie. more frequently than the other proposed new scrutiny committees).

Other Directorate Based Scrutiny Committees (x 3):

Chair's allowance: £3,511

Vice-Chair's allowance: £1,404

The Chairs' allowances are based on the existing Scrutiny Commissioner allowances, and the Vice-chairs' allowances at 40% of the Chairs' allowances in line with the Vice-chairs of other committees.

Total of Proposed New Allowances: £20,012

There would therefore be an annual ongoing saving of £2,061 against special responsibility allowances for the current scrutiny committee structure.

Other Allowances

The Panel asked the Head of Strategic Support to contact all Councillors to see if there were any other issues that the Panel should consider, and nothing was raised.

Therefore the Panel do not consider that any other changes to the Scheme of Allowances are required at this point in time.

THE COUNCIL'S SCHEME OF MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

The Panel has therefore reviewed the Council's Scheme of Members' Allowances and have incorporated the proposals contained within this report.

A copy is attached to this report for approval.