

MEMBERS' ALLOWANCE SCHEME MONITORING 2020/2021

Audit Committee - 23 September 2021

Report of: Monitoring Officer

Status: For Consideration

Key Decision: No

This reports support the Key Aim of: The effective management of Council resources

Portfolio Holder: Cllr. Matthew Dickins

Contact Officer: Martin Goodman, ext. 7245

Recommendation to Audit Committee: That Members note the contents of this report.

Reason for recommendation: This report is further to the Committee's monitoring of the Members' Allowance Scheme' and sets out payments which have been made.

Introduction and Background

- 1 Within the terms of reference of the Audit Committee, the committee is required 'to monitor the implementation of the Members' Allowance Scheme'.
- 2 The Governance Committee is required 'to receive the recommendation of the Joint Independent Remuneration Panel and make recommendations for changing the Members' Allowance Scheme to the Council and, if required, to the Joint Independent Remuneration Panel'. This process is due to take place during 2021/22 in time for an updated scheme to come into force from May 2023.

Members' Allowance Scheme - 2020/21

- 3 Members' allowances for 2020/21 were published during the summer and can be viewed, alongside past years' information, here: https://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/downloads/download/32/councillor_allowance_and_expense_payments
- 4 Basic allowances were paid to all Members and two asked not to receive the full amount.
- 5 Travel expenses were claimed by 10 out of 54 Members (19%). This figure was somewhat lower than in previous years, no doubt due to the global Covid-19 pandemic.

- 6 The IT allowance was consolidated with the basic allowance from May 2019.
- 7 Appendix G from the Constitution of Sevenoaks District Council containing the Members' Allowance Scheme (2020/21) is attached as this report's Appendix.
- 8 All Members' expenses claims are checked by Democratic Services. Under the Constitution it is for the Chief Executive or the Monitoring Officer to decide any question of interpretation.

Key Implications

Financial

The cost of the Members' Allowance Scheme is contained within the approved budget.

Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement

None.

Equality Assessment

The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

Conclusions

This report is for noting the operation of the scheme in the year 2020/21.

Appendices

None.

Background Papers

None.

Martin Goodman
Monitoring Officer