

MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME - ANNUAL UPDATING 2022/23

Council - 15 November 2022

Report of: Chief Executive

Status: For decision

Contact Officer: Martin Goodman, ext. 7245

Recommendation to Council: That Members' allowances for 2022/23, except for travelling expenses, be updated by 5.76% in line with the provision for Officer pay set out in the National Joint Council for Local Government Services pay award.

Reason for recommendation: To decide upon the updating of Members' allowances for 2022/23.

Introduction and Background

- 1 Members of the Council are paid annual allowances in accordance with a Members' Allowances Scheme. The Scheme is set out in Appendix G of the Constitution, which contains the following provision:

2.8 Annual Updating
Members' allowances except for travelling expenses are updated annually in line with the National Joint Council for Local Government Services pay award.
- 2 An agreement on the award for 2022/23 was announced in early November 2022. Exceptionally, there was no fixed percentage uplift to pay grades. Instead, the agreement reflected a flat rate payment to all Officers on the pay scale, equivalent to an average 5.76% uplift.
- 3 In accordance with the constitution, in previous years Members' allowances were updated in line with the applicable percentage award to Officers on the pay scale. This year it is proposed to update Members' allowances in line with the Officer average of 5.76%. Any increase in allowances will be backdated to the beginning of the financial year.

- 4 This report relates to the exceptional situation of there being ambiguity over the correct fixed percentage by which to uprate Members' allowances. It does not seek to alter the constitution or normal practice and does not need to be considered by the Governance Committee. It is unrelated to the work of the Joint Independent Remuneration Panel and, other than through the effect of consolidation, does not impact any year other than 2022/23. It does not propose a constitutional change.

Other options Considered and/or rejected

Other options include a decision not to uprate Member allowances or a decision to apply a different percentage to that which was agreed by the National Joint Council for Local Government Services.

Key Implications

Financial

The 2022/23 budget for Members' Allowances was set based on a 2% increase which equates to a budget of £441,218. The proposed uplift to 5.76% would equate to an increase of £16,264.86.

Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement

As set out in the report.

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.

Net Zero Implications

The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the council's ambition to be Net Zero by 2030. There is no perceived impact regarding either an increase or decrease in carbon emissions in the district, or supporting the resilience of the natural environment.

Appendices - none

Background Papers - Members' Allowances Scheme

Dr Pav Ramewal

Chief Executive