

## MEMBERS' ALLOWANCE SCHEME MONITORING 2022/2023

Audit Committee - 4 July 2023

**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. Maskell

**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 took place during 2022/23 and allowances are currently under consideration. That process is not a matter for this Committee.

### Members' Allowance Scheme - 2022/23

- 3 Members' allowances for 2022/23 will be published during the summer here: [https://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/downloads/download/32/councillor\\_allowance\\_and\\_expense\\_payments](https://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/downloads/download/32/councillor_allowance_and_expense_payments) As requested by Members last year, the document appears as an appendix to this report.
- 4 Basic allowances were paid to 55 Members and one asked not to receive the full amount.
- 5 Travel expenses were claimed by 18 out of 55 Members (33%).

- 6 An IT allowance was consolidated with the basic allowance from May 2019 and is not paid to Members.
- 7 Appendix G from the Constitution of Sevenoaks District Council containing the Members' Allowance Scheme (2022/23) is attached as an 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 (Compulsory heading - do not delete)

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.

## **Conclusions**

This report is for noting the operation of the scheme in the year 2022/23.

### **Appendices**

Members' Allowances for 2022/23; Appendix G from the Constitution.  
Member Allowance and Expense Payments 2022/23

### **Background Papers**

**Martin Goodman**  
**Monitoring Officer**