

Full Council

14 July 2022

Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel – Review of allowances for co-opted and independent members

For Decision

Portfolio Holder: Cllr S Flower, Leader of the Council

Local Councillor(s):

Executive Director: J Mair, Director of Legal & Democratic

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Report Status: Public

Brief Summary:

The current Scheme of Members' Allowances was agreed by Full Council on 3 September 2020, following consideration of recommendations made by the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP).

Following requests made to the Monitoring Officer he asked the IRP to review the allowances available to co-opted and independent members, as set out in paragraph 8.2 of the Dorset Council Scheme of Members' Allowances.

The opportunity was also taken to ask the IRP to review the Travel Allowances section of the Scheme and to recommend the rate at which drivers of electric vehicles should be reimbursed. In addition the IRP have made a recommendation concerning consultation with councillors regarding the possible introduction of a policy for Parental/Adoption/Sick leave.

This report presents the report and recommendations of the IRP, following their review.

Recommendation:

That the attached report and recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel, in respect of the review of allowances for co-opted and independent members, as set out in paragraph 8.2 of the Dorset Council Scheme of Members' Allowances, and other matters reviewed, be adopted by Full Council and that the Panel be thanked for their work in arriving at the recommendations.

An extract from the report setting out a summary of the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel is set out below:

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- A. To increase the allowance for the Co-opted Members of the Police and Crime Panel (PCP) to £2,000 per annum in recognition of the significant role that they perform and the huge impact they have on the success or otherwise of the PCP.
- B. To increase the retainer for the Independent Person appointed to contribute to the arrangements of promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct to £1,000 per annum and that any significant additional duties are agreed and remunerated at an hourly rate to be determined in the discretion of the Monitoring Officer.
- C. To increase the allowance for the Co-opted Members of the Harbours Committee to £1,000 per annum to recognise the role performed outside of the formal meetings of the Committee.
- D. To increase the allowance paid to Co-opted Members of the Overview Committee to £500 per annum on the basis that this might increase the likelihood of recruiting members to these positions.
- E. To include an allowance within the Travel Allowances section of the Scheme to reimburse the cost of charging an electric vehicle and that this should be set at the same rate as for petrol and diesel vehicles.
- F. That a consultation be undertaken of Dorset Councillors regarding the possible introduction of a policy for Parental/Adoption/Sick leave and that the response be considered as part of the Panel's next fundamental review of the Scheme.

Reason for Recommendation:

To enable Full Council to consider recommendations on the scheme of allowances following a review undertaken by the Independent Remuneration Panel.

1. **Report**

- 1.1 Under the Local Government (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003, Dorset Council is required to establish an Independent Remuneration Panel to make recommendations to the Council in respect of its Scheme of Members' Allowances. When setting a scheme of allowances or when making changes to the scheme of allowances, the Council must have regard to the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel.
- 1.2 The Monitoring Officer has received requests and has asked the Independent Remuneration Panel to review the allowances available to co-opted and independent members, as set out in paragraph 8.2 of the Dorset Council Scheme of Members' Allowances.
- 1.3 In addition, the Independent Remuneration Panel was asked to consider further matters relating to allowances for the use of electric vehicles and allowances in respect of parental/adoption/sick leave.
- 1.4 The Independent Remuneration Panel has concluded their review of these matters and their report and recommendations are presented at appendix 1 for Full Council consideration.

2. **Financial Implications**

The allowances recommended by the Independent Remuneration Panel represent an annual increase in the budget for members' allowances of £8100.

3. **Climate Implications**

None directly arising from this report.

4. **Well-being and Health Implications**

None directly arising from this report.

5. **Other Implications**

None directly arising from this report.

6. **Risk Assessment**

- 6.1 **HAVING CONSIDERED:** the risks associated with this decision; the level of risk has been identified as:

Current Risk: LOW
Residual Risk: LOW

7. **Equalities Impact Assessment**

An equalities impact screening was carried out on the Panel's report in 2019 and no issues were identified. Linked to this it was reported that, a general equalities impact assessment had been drafted as part of the work to inform the approach to be taken to the provision of support and development for the Dorset Councillors and co-opted/independent members.

8. **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel – Scheme of Members' allowances for Dorset Council

9. **Background Papers**

[Dorset Council Constitution – Part 5: Scheme of Members' Allowances](#)