

DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
RESOURCES DIRECTORATE	COUNCIL	14 OCTOBER 2019	11
MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES			

PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

SUMMARY

The Independent Remuneration Panel has agreed a recommendation for councillors' allowances for the financial year 2020-21. The recommendation is detailed below. The report asks members to consider the recommendation and adopt if appropriate.

RECOMMENDATION

To adopt the following recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel with effect from 1 April 2020:

- I. Increase the level of basic allowance and special responsibility allowances as follows:
 - Basic allowance – from £3,750 to £4,000
 - Leader of the Council – from £10,000 to £10,625
 - Deputy Leader – from £3,000 to £3,190
 - Chairmen of Programme Committees – from £4,000 to £4,250
 - Vice-Chairman of above – from £2,000 to £2,125
 - Chairman of Audit and Standards – from £3,250 to £3,450
 - Vice- Chairman of Audit and Standards – from £1,625 to £1,725
 - Chairmen of Public Protection and Licensing – from £1,625 to £1,725
 - Vice-Chairmen of above – from £812.50 to £865
 - Chairman of Member Development Steering Group – from £2,000 to £2,125
 - Leader of each political group – from £32 a member to £34 a member
- II. Maintain the present level of travel and subsistence allowances and dependent carers' allowance for 2020 – 21.
- III. Increase the allowance paid to the three Independent Persons to £800 per person per annum, with the cost to be shared equally with Blackpool, and the allowance to be backdated to 22 May 2019 (Annual Council).
- IV. Approve an unfunded revenue budget increase in respect of the above changes to Members' Allowances in the sum of £16,500 per annum from 2020/21 onwards.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

Council considers recommendations from the Independent Remuneration Panel each year. Last municipal year, the recommendations were reported to the council 10 December 2018. The decision of the council at that meeting was to maintain the present level of allowances.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES	
Spending your money in the most efficient way to achieve excellent services (Value for Money)	√
Delivering the services that customers expect of an excellent council (Clean and Green)	
Working with all partners (Vibrant Economy)	
To make sure Fylde continues to be one of the most desirable places to live (A Great Place to Live)	
Promoting Fylde as a great destination to visit (A Great Place to Visit)	

REPORT

1. The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 provide for local authorities to establish and maintain an independent remuneration panel. The purpose of the panel is to make recommendations to the council about the allowances to be paid to elected members.
2. The council must have regard to the recommendations of the panel.
3. Local authorities must include in their scheme of allowances a basic allowance, payable to all members, and may include provision for the payment of special responsibility allowances and a dependants' carers' allowance. The Regulations allow the inclusion of a travel and subsistence and a co-optees' allowance within an allowances scheme. These allowances are discretionary.
4. The independent panel has met and has made recommendations concerning the council's scheme.
5. The Panel being mindful of the fact that allowances had not increased for a number of years, and that the real value of allowances had consequently fallen significantly, recommended that basic allowance and special responsibility allowances be increased as follows:

Basic allowance – from £3,750 to £4,000

Leader of the Council – from £10,000 to £10,625

Deputy Leader – from £3,000 to £3,190

Chairmen of Programme Committees – from £4,000 to £4,250

Vice-Chairman of above – from £2,000 to £2,125

Chairman of Audit and Standards – from £3,250 to £3,450

Vice- Chairman of Audit and Standards – from £1,625 to £1,725

Chairmen of Public Protection and Licensing – from £1,625 to £1,725

Vice-Chairmen of above – from £812.50 to £865

Chairman of Member Development Steering Group – from £2,000 to £2,125

Leader of each political group – from £32 a member to £34 a member

6. The Panel also recommended an increase to the payments made to the three Independent Persons, to £800 per person per annum, with the cost of the allowance to be shared equally with Blackpool and backdated to 22 May 2019, the date of Annual Council.
7. Members are asked to consider the two documents below:
 - Appendix 1: [The report to the independent panel](#); and
 - Appendix 2: [A note of the panel's deliberations and recommendations](#).

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	The Council's base revenue budget includes recurring provision of £254,855 per annum for the member's allowance scheme. The effect of the changes as proposed would be an increase in the annual cost of members' Allowances of £16,500. If the proposed changes are agreed the Council is requested to approve an unfunded revenue budget increase in respect of the changes to Members' Allowances in the sum of £16,500 per annum from 2020/21 onwards.
Legal	Payment of members' allowances and the amount of such allowances is discretionary. However, the council is obliged to "have regard" to the recommendations of the independent panel.
Community Safety	None
Human Rights and Equalities	None
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	None
Health & Safety and Risk Management	None

LEAD AUTHOR	CONTACT DETAILS	DATE
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BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
Report to remuneration panel	September 2019	Town Hall, Lytham St Annes
Notes of remuneration panel meeting	September 2019	Town Hall, Lytham St Annes

Attached Documents

Appendix 1: The report to the independent panel

Appendix 2: A note of the panel's deliberations and recommendations