

North Tyneside Council

Report to Council

23 November 2017

ITEM 7

Report of the Independent
Remuneration Panel

Portfolio(s): Elected Mayor

Cabinet Member(s): Mrs Norma Redfearn

Report from Service Area: Law and Governance

Responsible Officer: Vivienne M. Geary, Head of Law and Governance
Tel: (0191) 643 5339

Wards affected: All

PART 1

1.1 Executive Summary:

This report requests the Council to give consideration to the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel in relation to the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2018/19.

The Authority is required to have in place a scheme for Members' Allowances and is required to have regard to the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel when determining its Members' Allowance Scheme.

1.2 Recommendation(s):

It is recommended that Council:

- (1) consider the recommendation of the Independent Remuneration Panel; and
- (2) agree a Scheme of Members' Allowances for 2018/19.

1.3 Forward Plan:

Twenty eight days notice of this report has been given and it first appeared on the Forward Plan that was published on 16 October 2017.

1.4 Council Plan and Policy Framework

This report has no direct relevance to the Authority's Our North Tyneside Plan priorities or to the Policy Framework.

1.5 Information:

1.5.1 Background

- 1.5.2 Under the Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 (as amended) the Authority is required to have regard to the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel when considering any changes to its Members' Allowances Scheme.
- 1.5.3 The Panel met with representative Members of the Council to seek views on the level of remuneration paid to Members. It also noted the level of allowance of neighbouring local authorities.
- 1.5.4 The Panel considered that no change be made to the current Members' Allowances Scheme in relation to basic allowances for the 2018/19 financial year.
- 1.5.5 The Panel continues to recognise that there may be need to review of special responsibility allowances to ensure that allowances reflect the level of duty/responsibility in the future, however it thought this was not the appropriate time for it to undertake such a review.

1.6 Decision options:

The following decision options are available for consideration by Council:

Option 1

Approve recommendation of the Independent Remuneration Panel;

Option 2

Refer the matter back to the Independent Remuneration Panel for further consideration of specific issues identified by Council; or

Option 3

Defer consideration of the matter to obtain appropriate advice on the implications of any alternative proposals.

1.7 Reasons for recommended option:

Option 1 is recommended for the following reasons:

The Authority is required to have in place a Members' Allowances Scheme before 1 April each year having had regard to the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel.

1.8 Appendices:

Appendix: Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel November 2017.

1.9 Contact officers:

Vivienne M. Geary, Head of Law and Governance, (0191) 643 5339
Alison Campbell, Senior Business Partner, Finance, (0191) 643 2430
Paul Wheeler, Democratic Services Officer, Law and Governance, (0191) 643 5318

1.10 Background information:

The following background papers/information have been used in the compilation of this report and are available at the office of the author:

- North Tyneside Council Constitution
- North Tyneside Members' Allowances Scheme
- Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 (as amended).

PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING

2.1 Finance and other resources

The amount of Basic and Special Responsibility Allowance is index linked to the annual pay award for employees working under the National Joint Council for Local Government Services National Agreement on Pay and Conditions of Service.

The payment of Members' allowances under the Members Allowance Scheme for 2018/19, will be met from existing budgets in Law and Governance. Any variations will be reported as part of the usual financial management arrangements.

2.2 Legal

The Council is required to approve a Members' Allowances Scheme before the beginning of each financial year, following advice from the Independent Remuneration Panel, in accordance with the Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 (as amended).

2.3 Consultation/community engagement

2.3.1 Internal Consultation

Elected Members were consulted as part of the Independent Remuneration Panel's preparation of the report.

2.3.2 External Consultation/Engagement

There has been no external consultation or engagement on the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel.

2.4 Human rights

The proposals within this report do not themselves have any direct implications in respect of the Human Rights Act 1998.

2.5 Equalities and diversity

There are no direct equalities or diversity implications arising from this report.

2.6 Risk management

The risks associated with this report will be managed in accordance with the North Tyneside Council risk management process.

2.7 Crime and disorder

There are no direct crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

2.8 Environment and sustainability

There are no direct environment and sustainability implications arising from this report.

PART 3 - SIGN OFF

- Deputy Chief Executive ☐
- Head(s) of Service ☐
- Mayor/Cabinet Member(s) ☐
- Chief Finance Officer ☐
- Monitoring Officer ☐
- Head of Corporate Strategy ☐