



Classification	Item No.
Open	

Meeting:	Council
Meeting date:	17 March 2021
Title of report:	Members' Allowances Scheme 2021/22
Report by:	Deputy Chief Executive
Decision Type:	Council
Ward(s) to which report relates	n/a

Executive Summary:

The report provides an update on proposals to recruit new members to the Independent Remuneration Panel and recommends that the Members Scheme of Allowances for 2021/22 be the same as paid last year.

Recommendations:

Council is recommended to:

- (a) Agree the Members' Scheme of Allowances for 2021/22 set out at Appendix 1;
- (b) Note that a new Independent Remuneration Panel will be appointed later this year by the Director of Law and Public Services in consultation with the Mayor to advise on a Scheme of Allowances for 2022/23 ahead of the all-out May 2022 Local Elections.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Each year, the Council must approve a Members' Allowances Scheme before the end of the preceding financial year. Before doing so it must consider the views of its Independent Remuneration Panel.
- 1.2 The Bury Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) has not met for many years and there is a need to recruit new members. Adverts will appear shortly on the Council website and in the Bury Times inviting applications. The newly appointed Director of Law and Democratic Services will shortlist suitably qualified candidates with the Head of Democratic Services and will appoint three successful candidates in consultation with the Mayor and Chair of Standards Committee.

2. Members Allowances 2021/22

- 2.1 Given the current situation and the difficulties in convening an IRP it is suggested that the nature and levels of member allowances applicable during 2020/21 should 'roll over' to form the 2021/22 Scheme.
- 2.2 Since 2011, the custom and practice at Bury has been to pay 90% of Special Responsibility Allowances (SRAs) (apart from the Mayor and Deputy Mayor). This practice was continued for 2021/22. The Scheme set out at Appendix A shows the SRA allowances discounted by 10%.
- 2.3 It has also been the policy that Allowances are uplifted in line with national staff pay awards. It is suggested this policy continues. It is not known if there will be a pay award this coming year.
- 2.4 Appendix A indicates what these allowances would be. A roll-over of the 2020/21 Scheme would mean that the basic and special responsibility allowances (less 10%) , the travel and subsistence arrangements, the carer and childcare allowances, and the indexing to the pay award for staff, would continue unchanged.

Community impact/links with Community Strategy

Not Applicable

Equality Impact and considerations:

Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the 'general duty' on public authorities is set out as follows:

A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to -

- (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;*
- (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;*
- (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.*

The public sector equality duty (specific duty) requires us to consider how we can positively contribute to the advancement of equality and good relations, and demonstrate that we are paying 'due regard' in our decision making in the design of policies and in the delivery of services.

Assessment of Risk:

The following risks apply to the decision:

Risk / opportunity	Mitigation
Legal Compliance	Council Approval

Consultation:

Group leaders were consulted on the proposals at the March Democratic Arrangements Forum

Legal Implications:

The Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 require the Council to have regard to the recommendations of its independent remuneration panel before making or amending its member Allowances' Scheme. The IRP need to be convened as soon as practicable and in good time for the new Council in May 2023. The Regulations require the Council to make its scheme before the beginning of each year.

Financial Implications:

Financial provision is included in the Revenue Budget 2021/22

Report Author and Contact Details:

Marie Rosenthal, Strategic Advisor

M.Rosenthal@bury.gov.uk

Background papers:

Previous Council reports on Members Allowances

Please include a glossary of terms, abbreviations and acronyms used in this report.

Term	Meaning
IRP	Bury Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP)