

<b>Report to:</b>	Council	<b>Date:</b> 18 January 2023
<b>Subject:</b>	A review of Special Responsibility Allowances for Members appointed to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee	
<b>Report of</b>	The Council's Monitoring Officer	

## Summary

To report the recommendations of the GM Independent Remuneration Panel in relation to the remuneration of the Members of the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

## Recommendation(s)

1. Note the recommendations of the report of the GM Independent Remuneration Panel. (Appendix 1).
2. Note that the levelling up bill is still proceeding through parliament and therefore the GMCA does not yet have legislative power to pay allowances directly to the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee members.
3. That Bury Council (along with GM Districts) pay allowances to their appointees to the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee in the interim.
4. Ensure that appropriate arrangements are put in place with the GM treasurer to enable reimbursement from the GMCA to Bury Council.
5. Payments of SRAs for Members and Chair of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee are set as recommended in the report (Appendix 1) and are backdated to 24th June 2022 when the new scrutiny arrangements were put in place.
6. The Council's Member Allowance Scheme is adjusted to take account of the interim arrangements.

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## **1. Background**

1.1 The Greater Manchester Combined Authority Order 2011, as amended by the GMCA (Amendment) Order 2015 and the GMCA (Functions and Amendment) Order 2017 provides for the appointment of a GMCA Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP). At their meeting on 24 February 2017 the GMCA agreed to establish in accordance with relevant statutory provisions, its own Independent Remuneration Panel.

1.2 Following consideration of the Independent Review<sup>1</sup> of the GMCA Scrutiny function undertaken by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny at their meeting on the 24 June 2022, the GMCA agreed to re-convene the IRP to consider a special responsibility allowance for members and substitutes of the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

## **2. INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PROCESS**

2.1 Membership of the Greater Manchester Independent Remuneration Panel consists of:

- Dr Declan Hall –Independent Chair
- Clive Memmott – Chamber of Commerce
- Vicky Knight – UNISON Northwest

2.2 The Panel met in July 2022 to begin the process of reviewing the remuneration for the Members of the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee. Their final report was completed in November 2022 but was not considered immediately by the GMCA as it was anticipated that the reference to the payment of allowances to Scrutiny, Audit and PCP Committee members within the Levelling Up White Paper was imminently to become law.

2.3 The Panel formally convened to conduct the review and it interviewed members of Scrutiny, members the GMCA and relevant officers. In addition, all Scrutiny members were sent a short questionnaire for those who were unable to meet with the Panel were given the opportunity to make a written submission.

2.4 The Panel wishes to thank those Members and officers who assisted them with their review and submits its recommendations for consideration by the GMCA.

### 3. RENUMERATION PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations of the GMCA's Independent Remuneration Panel are –

a) The IRP recommends that the Members of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee are paid an annual SRA of £3,228.

b) The IRP recommends that the Substitute Members of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee are paid an SRA consisting of two components:

A Standing SRA of £536 per year

A Variable SRA of £134.52 for every meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and task and finish group attended

c) The IRP recommends that the SRA for the Chair of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee should be £9,684.

d) The IRP recommends that if the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee appoint a Vice Chair then that post holder should receive an SRA of £4,035.

e) The IRP recommends that the SRAs recommended for the Members, Substitutes, Chair and if so appointed a Vice Chair of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee are also annually indexed in accordance with the annual percentage cost of living increase that is applied each year as set by the National Joint Council for Local Government Staff, with the indexation applied at the same time it is applied to the remuneration of the GMCA Elected Mayor and Co-opted Members.

f) The Panel further recommends that the recommended SRAs for Members and Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee are backdated to 24th June 2022 or any date thereafter than the GMCA deems is appropriate.

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#### **Legal Implications:**

Under the Local Authorities (Members Allowances)(England) Regulations 2003 Local Authorities must maintain an Independent Panel and updated scheme. The Member allowance scheme was agreed by Members at Annual Council on the 25<sup>th</sup> May 2022. If members are minded to agree to the recommendations the current scheme will be amended to reflect to proposal from the GM Independent Remuneration Panel. Members are to note that this is a temporary change until such point as the relevant legislation is enacted.

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#### **Financial Implications:**

There will be no financial implications for Bury Council as a result of the proposed changes to the Member Allowance Scheme however we will need to administer the payments until the arrangements with the CA are in place.

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**Appendix 1** – full report of the Independent Remuneration Panel – November 2022.