

Allerdale Borough Council

Council – 30 January 2019

Members Allowances 2019/20

The Reason for the Decision	To consider the recommendations of the Independent Panel for Councillors Allowances to set a Members Allowances Scheme for 2019/20.
Summary of options considered	For the Council to agree the recommendations of the Independent Panel for Councillors Allowances.
Recommendations	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. That the report and recommendations of the panel be endorsed as Appendix 12. That the Member's Allowance Scheme 2019/20 be approved as Appendix 2.3. That the allowances paid to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Allerdale remains set at £7,071 and £507 respectively.4. That the Independent Panel reconvenes in June 2019 to further review 2019/20 Members Allowances, once the Members Committee structure for the new term has been decided.
Financial / Resource Implications	<p>The cost of Members allowances in 2018/19 is £272,507.00</p> <p>It is anticipated that the Independent Panels recommended changes to the Members Allowances Scheme would not increase the cost in 2019/20; this is due to the number of councillors reducing from 56 to 49.</p> <p>The 2019/20 members allowance scheme would decrease in cost by £15,245.43 to £257,261.57.</p> <p>The budget provision for 2018/19 is £271.310.00. No increase in budget would be required.</p>

Due to the pending re-review of the 2019/20 Members Allowance scheme in June 2019, the Independent Panel have recommended that the budget provision remains at £271,310.00

Legal / Governance Implications

In accordance with the Local Government Act 2000 and the Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 the Council has a duty to have regard to the recommendations of the Independent Panel before agreeing or amending its allowances and allowances scheme

Community Safety Implications

There are no community safety implications.

Health and Safety and Risk Management Implications

There are no health and safety and risk management implications.

Equality Duty considered / Impact Assessment completed

The Equality Duty has been considered.

Wards Affected

All Wards

The contribution this decision would make to the Council's priorities

This recommendation is a statutory requirement which aims to promote transparency in local democracy.

Is this a Key Decision

No

Portfolio Holder

Councillor Joan Ellis

Lead Officer

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Report Implications

Community Safety	N	Financial	Y
Legal	Y	Partnership	N
Social Inclusion	N	Asset Management	N
Equality Duty	N	Health and Safety	N
Employment (internal)	N	Employment (external to the Council)	N

Background Papers None.....

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Independent Panel for Councillors Allowances carried out a full review of Members' Allowances in January 2018.
- 1.2 The Members' Allowances Scheme 2018/19 was agreed by Council on 07 March 2018 and came into effect on 01 April 2018.
- 1.3 The Independent Panel for Councillors Allowances carried out a review of the Council's Members Allowances Scheme on 13 December 2018. The report of the Independent Panel including its recommendations is attached at Appendix 1.
- 1.4 In accordance with the Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003, Councillors are requested to consider the recommendations of the Independent Panel for Councillors Allowances
- 1.5 Councillors are not obliged to accept the recommendations of the Panel; however, if they choose not to do so, they must provide reasons.
- 1.6 If the Council is minded to make its own amendments to the Members Allowances Scheme, it must be clear in stating its reasons so as to withstand public scrutiny.
- 1.7 Councillors are also requested to consider the allowances paid under sections 3 and 5 of the Local Government Act 1972 to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.
- 1.8 In addition, Councillors are requested to agree the new Members Allowances Scheme of 2019/20 attached in Appendix 2.
- 1.9 A summary of the Independent Panel's recommendations contained in Appendix 1 is as follows:
 - That the Basic Allowance be increased from £3266.65 to £3366.65.
 - That due to the impending Election in May 2019, the panel will reconvene again in June 2019 to re-review the Members Allowances Scheme for 2019/20.
 - That the Basic Allowance payable to Parish Councillors remains set at nil percent of the sum of the Basic Allowance paid to Allerdale Borough Councillors.
 - That the allowance payable to the Leader of the Council remains set at £21,000.00.

- That the allowance payable to the Deputy Leader of the Council remains set at £9,972.87.
- That the allowance payable to members of the Executive remain set at £5,441.42
- That the allowance payable to the Chair of the Development Panel be set at £4,500.00
- That the allowance payable to the Chairs' of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee remain set at £2,720.71.
- That the allowance payable to the Chair of the Licencing Committee remain set at £2,992.78
- That the allowance payable to the Chair of the Audit Committee remains set at £2,720.71
- That the allowance payable to the Chair of the Standards Committee remains set at £2,720.71.
- That the allowance payable to the Leader of the Opposition remains set at £2,720.71
- That the rates for Travel Allowance for councillors remain set as follows:

Cars and Vans;

First 10,000 miles: 45p per mile
Above 10,000 miles: 25p per mile

Motorcycles

First 10,000 miles: 24p per mile
Above 10,000 miles: 24p per mile

Bicycles:

First 10,000 miles: 20p per mile
Above 10,000 miles: 20p per mile

- That the levels of Subsistence Allowance for councillors remain set as follows:
Breakfast – an absence of more than 4 hours before 11:00am:
£6.95

Lunch – an absence of more than 4 hours, including the period between 12:00pm (noon) and 14:00pm

£9.50

Tea – an absence of more than 4 hours, including the period between 15:00pm and 17:00pm:

£0.00

Evening Meal – an absence of more than 4 hours ending after 19:00pm:

£13.15

That the rates for Travel Allowance payable to co-opted members of the Council remain set as follows:

Cars and Vans;

First 10,000 miles: 45p per mile
Above 10,000 miles: 25p per mile

Motorcycles

First 10,000 miles: 24p per mile
Above 10,000 miles: 24p per mile

Bicycles:

First 10,000 miles: 20p per mile
Above 10,000 miles: 20p per mile

- That the levels of Subsistence Allowance payable to co-opted members of the Council remain set as follows:

Breakfast – an absence of more than 4 hours before 11:00am:

£6.95

Lunch – an absence of more than 4 hours, including the period between 12:00pm (noon) and 14:00pm

£9.50

Tea – an absence of more than 4 hours, including the period between 15:00pm and 17:00pm:

£0.00

Evening Meal – an absence of more than 4 hours ending after 19:00pm:

£13.15

- That the Telephone Allowance remains included in the Basic Allowance payable to all Members of the Council.
- That the Broadband Allowance remains included in the Basic Allowance payable to all Members of the Council.
- That the Dependants Carers Allowance remain in the Members Allowances Scheme payable at the full receipted rate from a registered carer and limited to 8 hours per week.
- That no Special Responsibility Allowances be superannuated.
- That a Co-Optees Allowance not be included in the Scheme of Allowances.

2.0 Mayor and Deputy Mayor Allowances

- 2.1 Section 3 and 5 of the Local Government Act 1972 allow the Council to pay the Mayor and Deputy Mayor an allowance such as the council think is reasonable.
- 2.2 The independent Panel for Councillors Allowances reviewed the levels of allowances paid to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Allerdale.
- 2.3 The Panel undertook to review these allowances and recommends that the allowances paid to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Allerdale remains set at £7071.00 and £507.00 respectively.

3.0 Finance/Resource Implications

- 3.1 The cost of Members allowances in 2018/19 is £272,507.00
- 3.2 It is anticipated that the Independent Panels recommended changes to the Members Allowances Scheme would reduce the cost in 2019/20 by £15,245.43 to £257,261.57

4.0 Legal Implications and Risks

- 4.1 In accordance with the Local Government Act 2000 and the Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003, the Council is required to establish and maintain an Independent Panel for Councillors Allowances to make independent recommendations to Council on the Members Allowances Scheme. The Council has a duty to have regard to the recommendations of the Independent Panel before agreeing or amending its allowances scheme.

5.0 Recommendations

- 5.1 That the report and recommendations of the Panel be endorsed as Appendix 1.
- 5.2 That the Members Allowances Scheme 2019/20 be approved as Appendix 2.
- 5.3 That the allowances paid to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Allerdale remains set at £7,071.00 and £507.00 respectively.
- 5.4 That the Independent Panel reconvenes in June 2019 to further review 2019/20 Members Allowances, once the Members Committee structure for the new term has been decided.

6.0 Conclusion

- 6.1 Councillors are requested to consider the Independent Panel Report – attached as Appendix 1 and the recommendations therein

Sharon Sewell

Head of Governance and Monitoring Officer