

Allerdale Borough Council

Council – 7 March 2018

**Members' Allowances 2018/19**

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<b>The Reason for the Decision</b>	To consider the recommendations of the Independent Panel for Councillors Allowances to set a Members' Allowances Scheme for 2018/19.
<b>Summary of options considered</b>	<p>For the Council to agree the recommendations of the Independent Panel for Councillors Allowances.</p> <p>For the Council not to agree the recommendations of the Independent Panel, instead choosing to forgo changes to the Members' Allowances Scheme or to form its own changes.</p>
<b>Recommendations</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. That the report and recommendations of the Panel be endorsed as Appendix 1.</li><li>2. That the Members' Allowances Scheme 2018/19 be approved as Appendix 2.</li><li>3. That the allowances paid to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Allerdale remain set at £7,071 and £507 respectively.</li></ol>
<b>Financial/Resource Implications</b>	<p>The cost of Members' allowances in 2017/18 is £273,165.</p> <p>It is anticipated that the Independent Panel's recommended changes to the Members' Allowances Scheme would increase the cost in 2018/19 by £6,275 (increasing the cost to £279,440).</p> <p>The budget provision for Members' allowances is £272,250. An increase to the budget of £7,190 would be required (increasing the budget to £279,440).</p>
<b>Legal Implications</b>	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 J Ellis / Councillor B Cannon

**Lead Officer**

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**Report Implications**

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

**Background Papers**

Local Government Act 2000  
The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003  
Sections 3 and 5 of the Local Government Act 1972

**Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Report of the Independent Panel for Councillors Allowances  
Appendix 2 – Members' Allowances Scheme 2018/19

## **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 The Independent Panel for Councillors Allowances carried out a full review of Members' Allowances in January 2016.
- 1.2 The Members' Allowances Scheme 2017/18 was agreed by Council on 18 January 2017 and came into effect on 1 April 2017.
- 1.3 The Independent Panel for Councillors Allowances carried out a review of the Council's Members' Allowances Scheme on 29 January 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. As this is the last Council meeting before 1 April 2019, when the scheme must be made by, the Council would be unable to re-submit the recommendations to the Independent Panel for reconsideration.
- 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 for 2018/19 attached at Appendix 2. Should the Panel's recommendations with regard to the increase to the Leader of the Council, Deputy Leader of the Council and member of the Executive allowances be agreed, the Scheme will be amended when the pay offer for council employees is accepted.
- 1.9 A summary of the Independent Panel's recommendations contained in Appendix 1 is as follows:
  - That the Basic Allowance be increased from £3,166.65 to £3,266.65.
  - That the Basic Allowance payable to Parish Councillors remain 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 be increased by an amount equal to 1% less than the final negotiated pay settlement for council employees, not to go lower than 0%.

- That the allowance payable to the Deputy Leader of the Council be increased by an amount equal to 1% less than the final negotiated pay settlement for council employees, not to go lower than 0%.
- That the allowance payable to members of the Executive be increased by an amount equal to 1% less than the final negotiated pay settlement for council employees, not to go lower than 0%.
- That the allowance payable to the Chairman of the Development Panel remain set at £4,500.00.
- That the allowance payable to Chairmen of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee remain set at £2,720.71.
- That the allowance payable to the Chairman of the Licensing Committee remain set at £2,992.78.
- That the allowance payable to the Chairman of the Audit Committee remain set at £2,720.71.
- That the allowance payable to the Chairman of the Standards Committee remain set at £2,720.71.
- That the allowance payable to the Leader of the Opposition remain 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  
Above 10,000 miles: 25p

Motorcycles:

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

Bikes:

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

- That the levels of Subsistence Allowance for councillors remain set as follows:

Breakfast - an absence of more than 4 hours before 11.00 am:

£6.95

Lunch - an absence of more than 4 hours, including the period between 12 noon and 2:00 pm:

£9.50

Tea - an absence of more than 4 hours, including the period between 3 pm and 6 pm:

£0.00

Evening Meal - an absence of more than 4 hours ending after 7 pm:

£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  
Above 10,000 miles: 25p

Motorcycles:

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

Bikes:

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

- 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 11.00 am:

£6.95

Lunch - an absence of more than 4 hours, including the period between 12 noon and 2:00 pm:

£9.50

Tea - an absence of more than 4 hours, including the period between 3 pm and 6 pm:

£0.00

Evening Meal - an absence of more than 4 hours ending after 7 pm:

£13.15

- That the Telephone Allowance remain included in the Basic Allowance payable to all Members of the Council.
- That the Broadband Allowance remain 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 Sections 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 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 remain set at £7,071 and £507 respectively.

## **3.0 Finance/Resource Implications**

3.1 The cost of Members' allowances in 2017/18 is £273,165.

3.2 It is anticipated that the Independent Panel's recommended changes to the Members' Allowances Scheme would increase the cost in 2018/19 by £6,275 (increasing the cost to £279,440).

3.3 The budget provision for Members' allowances is £272,250, an increase to the budget of £7,190 would be required (increasing the budget to £279,440).

#### **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 2018/19 be approved as Appendix 2.
- 5.3 That the allowances paid to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Allerdale remain set at £7,071 and £507 respectively.

#### **6.0 Conclusion**

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

**Brendan Carlin**  
**Head of Governance and Monitoring Officer**