

Report subject	<b>Members' Allowances Scheme 2022-2023</b>
Meeting date	10 May 2022
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	<p>This report seeks Council's approval of the Scheme of Members' Allowances for 2022-23 Municipal Year, which will need to include any changes applicable following the changes to the Overview and Scrutiny function.</p> <p>At the time of writing this report, the final outcome of the changes to the Overview and Scrutiny function were not known and therefore Council will be advised at the meeting of any consequential changes.</p>
Recommendations	<p><b>It is RECOMMENDED that:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>(a) subject to any required adjustments following the determination of the Overview and Scrutiny function debate at the reconvened meeting of the Council, the schedule of Members' Allowances, as set out in Appendix 1 to this report, be approved with effect from 10 May 2022;</b></li> <li><b>(b) the allowances as set out in the schedule be increased in accordance with the Employees' National Pay Award when determined and back-dated to 10 May 2022.</b></li> </ul>
Reason for recommendations	To ensure that BCP Council has a Scheme of Members' Allowances as required by the relevant legislation.

Portfolio Holder(s):	Not applicable
Corporate Director	Graham Farrant (Chief Executive)
Report Authors	Richard Jones (Head of Democratic Services)
Wards	Not applicable
Classification	For Decision

## **Background**

1. The Local Authorities (Members' Allowance) (England) Regulations 2003 (the Regulations) require a relevant authority to make a scheme providing for the payment of a basic allowance (BA) to each member of that authority. The BA must be the same for each member of the authority.
2. The Scheme may make further provision for the payment of special responsibility allowances (SRA) for specific roles and payments to co-optees on specific committees.

## **Application of Employees' National Salary Award**

3. The Council has previously resolved to increase the Members' Allowances in line with the Employees' National Pay Award but determined not to apply any increase in 2021/22. In making that resolution it was agreed that the National Pay Award would be applied from 2022/23 onwards. Negotiations are still ongoing for the Pay Award for 2022/23 and therefore, subject to Council's approval the allowances will be back-dated to 10 May 2022 (being the commencement of the Municipal Year).

## **Changes to Overview and Scrutiny Function**

4. In view of the adjournment of the meeting held on 26 April 2022, the final arrangements for the Overview and Scrutiny function are also not known at the time of writing this report.
5. The Special Responsibility Allowances set out in the schedule of allowances indicates the existing arrangements which may require amendment following the conclusion of the debate at the reconvened meeting of Council.

## **Summary of financial implications**

6. There are no proposed changes to the members allowances other than the application of the National Pay Award and potential changes to the SRA's for the Chairs of Overview and Scrutiny. The Council's budget for Members Allowances was increased to allow for the pay award, however, the additional Chair of Overview and Scrutiny is not budgeted and would be a growth in the Members Allowances' budget.

**Summary of legal implications**

7. The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 2003 govern the establishment of the Scheme necessary to determine the operation of allowances Members.
8. The process undertaken, and the proposed Scheme accords with the requirements of the legislation.

**Summary of human resources implications**

9. There are no specific Human Resources implications arising from this report.

**Summary of sustainability impact**

10. There are no specific sustainability issues arising from this report.

**Summary of public health implications**

11. There are no specific public health issues arising from this report.

**Summary of equality implications**

12. The needs of councillors with dependents, including those who are carers, have been considered and taken account of through the process and inclusion of specific allowances.

**Summary of risk assessment**

13. There are no specific risks arising from this report.

**Background papers**

None

**Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Schedule of Members Allowances for 2022/23

**Scheme of Members Allowances for 2022/23**

The Members' Allowances payable for the 2022/23 Municipal Year be as follows:

<b>Basic and Co-optees Allowances</b>		<b>£</b>
(A)	Basic Allowance for each of the 76 Councillors	£12,844
(B)	Co-optees and Independent Members Allowance	£1,028
<b>Special Responsibility Allowance</b>		
(In recognition of the additional workload and levels of responsibility and accountability placed upon members appointed to these roles)		
(C)	Leader of the Council	£18,550
(D)	Cabinet Members (including Deputy Leader)	£18,550
(E)	Lead Members	£10,275
(F)	Chair of the Council	£10,275
(G)	Vice-Chair of the Council	£5,138
(H)	Chair of Audit and Governance Committee	£10,275
(I)	Chair of Planning Committee	£10,275
(J)	* Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Board	£10,275
(K)	* Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees	£7,706
(L)	Chair of Licensing Committee	£10,275
(M)	Vice-Chair of Licensing Committee	£2,569
(N)	Chair of Appeals Committee	£3,083
(O)	Chair of Standards Committee	£3,083
(P)	Group Leaders <sup>†</sup>	£3,083
(Note: <sup>†</sup> minority political groups must have a membership of no fewer than 5 for their Leader to receive an SRA)		
<b>Other Allowances, Provisions and Conditions</b>		
(Q)	No SRAs be paid to vice-chairmen of committees (with the exception of the vice-chairman of Council and the Licensing Committee)	
(R)	Members may not receive more than one SRA (and may elect which SRA to receive) with the exception that a Group Leader's SRA can be payable as a second SRA	
(S)	The Allowances set out above be increased annually in line with the Employees' National Salary Award from the date of Annual Council and back-dated as applicable.	
(T)	Travel allowances continue to be paid to members in line with MAP for undertaking official business	

(U)	Travel allowances be paid to members travelling to the BCP Council Offices for meetings and official business as set out in paragraph 12A of the current scheme of allowances	
(V)	Subsistence allowances be paid to members in the case of an absence not involving an absence overnight from the usual place of residence:-	
	Breakfast (more than 4 hours away before 11am)	£7.14
	Lunch (more than 4 hours including 12 noon to 2pm)	£10.72
	Tea (more than 4 hours including 3pm to 6pm)	£5.35
	Evening Meal (more than 4 hours away ending after 7pm)	£14.29
(W)	Carers' allowance be paid to recompense the actual cost expended (and is not payable to a member of the claimant's own household subject to the Monitoring Officer having the discretion to approve claims on a case by case basis):	
	(a) for care of dependants, whether children, elderly people or people with disabilities;	
	(b) for such time as a member is on BCP Council business where travelling allowances are payable;	
	(c) at an hourly rate equivalent to 110% of the minimum wage, rounded up to the nearest whole pound	
(X)	Where applicable, the entitlement of an SRA be transferred to an elected vice-chair where the relevant chair is permanently unavailable to perform their duties	
(Y)	No members be entitled to a pension	