

Report subject	Members' Allowances Scheme 2024-2025
Meeting date	23 July 2024
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	This report seeks Council's approval of the Scheme of Members' Allowances for the 2024-2025 Municipal Year and incorporates the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) on their interim review of the Member's Scheme of Allowances for 2024/25.
Recommendations	<p>It is RECOMMENDED that:</p> <p>(a) Council considers the attached report at Appendix 1 and its recommendations and adopts the proposed Scheme of Members Allowances for BCP Council as set out in Appendix 2, subject to any amendments Council may wish to agree; and</p> <p>(b) A full review of the Members Allowances Scheme be completed during the 2024/5 municipal year commencing in Autumn 2024.</p>
Reason for recommendations	To ensure that BCP Council has an appropriate Scheme of Members' Allowances as required by the relevant legislation.
Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Vikki Slade, Leader of the Council
Corporate Director	Graham Farrant, Chief Executive
Report Authors	Sarah Culwick, Deputy Head of Democratic Services
Wards	Council-wide
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.
3. The mechanism with which Councils consider allowances is by way of appointment of an Independent Remuneration Panel. This Panel considers the level of Member Allowances to be operated by a Council under the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 2003.

Application of Employees' National Salary Award

4. The Council has previously resolved to increase the Members' Allowances in line with the Employees' National Pay Award. Negotiations are still ongoing for the Pay Award for 2024/25 and therefore any increase will be backdated to 7 May 2024 (being the commencement of the Municipal Year).

Options Appraisal – Recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel

5. The Panels interim report is set out in full at Appendix 1 with the recommendations of the Panel being: -
6. **The Panel recommends that, on an interim basis: -**
 - (a) **The Chairs of the area-based Planning Committees receive an SRA of £8,674 per annum;**
 - (b) **The Independent Members of the Environment and Place Scrutiny Committee be paid an allowance of £1,158 per annum;**
 - (c) **All remaining allowances continue to be paid at the current rate provided for within the current scheme of allowances until such time as a full review is undertaken in 2024/5.**

Summary of financial implications

7. The Council's budget for Members Allowances was increased to allow for the pay award and the additional Planning Chair, the additional Independent Members of the Environment and Place Scrutiny Committee were not budgeted for and would be a growth in the Members Allowances' budget.

Summary of legal implications

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

Summary of human resources implications

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

Summary of sustainability impact

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

Summary of public health implications

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

Summary of equality implications

13. 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

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

Background papers

None

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel

Appendix 2 – Interim Schedule of Members Allowances for 2024/25