

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to Council

16 June 2022

Subject: **Revision to the Members' Allowances Scheme**

Report of: **Head of Democratic Services**

SUMMARY

In 2003, the Government made Regulations which give local authorities discretion in preparing a Members' Allowances Scheme that reflect local circumstances, whilst at the same time providing clear and transparent accountability. Regulation 10(3) within the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 allows for changes to be made to the scheme at any time.

This report is seeking an adjustment to the Special Responsibility Allowances to include a provision for remuneration to the Vice Chairman of the Audit and Governance Committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Council AGREES that the position of Vice Chairman of the Audit and Governance Committee attracts 15 points in line with other Vice Chairman positions as set out in the Members' Allowance Scheme handbook under the table of Special Responsibility Allowances.

INTRODUCTION

At the Council meeting on 23 February 2018 the Council agreed the Members' Allowance Scheme. This followed recommendations made by the Independent Remuneration Panel.

BACKGROUND

1. In 2003, the Government made Regulations which give local authorities discretion in preparing a Members' Allowances Scheme that reflect local circumstances, whilst at the same time providing clear and transparent accountability. In support of this process, local authorities are required to take into account the recommendations of a locally appointed Independent Remuneration Panel.
2. The Panel first met and made initial recommendations in 2003 and has since advised the Council periodically in respect of the allowances payable to Members. The Panel last met on the 9 November 2017 and their recommendations were considered and agreed at the Council meeting on the 23 February 2018.
3. Executive Members are reminded that there is an automatic dispensation to all Members to enable discussion and a decision to be taken on Members' Allowances and Disclosable Pecuniary Interests do not apply to this decision, under the Code of Conduct.

SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY ALLOWANCES

4. Whilst the Members' Allowance Scheme handbook sets out a table of Special Responsibility Allowances which includes the allocation of 15 points to Vice Chairman of Committees, it excludes an allocation of points to the Vice Chairman of the Audit and Governance Committee.
5. In the interests of consistency and fairness, the Council is being asked to agree the recommendation to bring the points allocation for this role in line with the remuneration to the other Committee Vice Chairman.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6. This amendment will result in an increase to the annual spend to the Council. With effect from the 01 April 2022, each individual point equates to £61.71 so an allocation of 15 points for the position of Vice Chairman of the Audit and Governance Committee would result in an additional annual cost to the Council of £925.65. This sum is within existing budgets.

RISK ASSESSMENT

7. There are no significant risk considerations in relation to this report.

CONCLUSION

8. Council is asked to agree this amendment to the Special Responsibility Allowances to include a points allocation to the Vice Chairman of the Audit and Governance Committee in line with the points attributed to other Vice Chairman roles.

Appendices: None

Background papers:

[Members' Allowances report and appendices Council meeting 23 February 2018](#)

[Members' Allowances Scheme handbook](#)

Reference papers:

The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2003/1021/contents/made>

Enquiries:

For further information on this report please contact Leigh Usher (Ext 4554)