

Recommendations to Council from the meeting of Governance & Audit & Standards Committee held on 27 October 2017

Council Agenda Item 8 (G&A&S minute 62)

RECOMMENDED to Council (on behalf of the Independent Remuneration Panel)
the findings of the Panel

That

- (1) No change should be made to any of the various elements comprising the Members Allowances Scheme ("the Scheme") except that,**
 - (a) the Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor are to be included in the Scheme with a Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA) multiple of Basic Allowance of 0.7 and 0.1 respectively making the positions index-linked and if the recommendation is agreed by Council, to be effective from the date of that Council Meeting.**

Note 1 This is not an additional allowance for the Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor but is simply to bring their allowance formally within the scheme and particularly within the Index Linked regime rather than be permanently fixed as they have been. The proposed changes result in broadly similar allowances currently paid for these positions outside of the scheme which are - Lord Mayor allowance is currently £7,100 and the Deputy Lord Mayor is currently £923.

Note 2 A footnote would be added to the relevant section as follows "Recognising the roles of Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor are greater than is required normally of a councillor, as per The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003, Special Responsibility Allowances"
 - (b) a note would be added to the Scheme to clarify that any remuneration received through representing the Council on any Outside Body sits outside the Scheme.**
 - (c) the wording in the section on Carers' Allowance is amended to link it to the "Portsmouth Living Wage" (currently £7.85 per hour)**
 - (d) the wording of the first paragraph of section B (1) Travelling Allowances is amended to add the following wording**

That "Travel claims to a destination outside the City must be from a member's Portsmouth registered address, (or from the Council's Civic Offices if that is the member's starting point and is nearer to the destination). Claims from another location can be made if it is nearer to the destination outside the City."
- (2) Notwithstanding the index-linked arrangement, a further review of the Scheme be carried out to be completed in time for the start of the 2021-2022 financial year to meet the 4-yearly review requirement.**

- (3) The existing Independent Review Panel be retained as a Standing Panel in the interim period, whose members (with a quorum of three for any decision to be taken) can consider issues that arise in connection with the Scheme before the next review, either by email or in meetings.**

The Scheme incorporating the above revisions is attached as Appendix 1 of the report for approval

Further to the Panel's recommendations the committee also wished to recommend that the members of the Independent Review Panel be thanked for their time and attention in undertaking the Review.