

## **NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **COUNCIL**

## **SCHEME OF MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES – INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL REPORT**

### **1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT**

- 1.1 To consider the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel in order to approve a scheme of Members' Allowances for the financial year 2023/24 (or for a further reasonable period, see paragraph 4.2) in accordance with the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 (the Regulations).

### **2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 2.1 The Council is required to make an annual scheme of Members' Allowances for each financial year. The Council may set a scheme for a minimum of one year or for a further reasonable period; previously the Council approved a scheme for the years 2020/21 to 2022/23 – the final year being the last year of the current period of elected administration. The Council cannot make or amend a scheme without first having regard to recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP).
- 2.2 The Independent Remuneration Panel currently comprises four Independent Members, two who also sit on North East Lincolnshire Councils IRP.
- 2.3 The Members' Allowances Scheme includes a set Basic Allowance for all Members of the Council, defined Special Responsibility Allowances (SRAs), a Substitution Allowance, Co-optees Allowance and Mileage Allowances including a level of mileage rates claimable to a maximum of 5,000 miles at a recommended rate approved by Her Majesty's Revenue and Custom (HMRC) and associated Public Transport, Hired Transport and Overnight Rates. The Scheme does not provide for members to claim for subsistence. All elected members continue to use an audited digital e-claims iTrent software system for making claims for travel allowances (also used by officers).
- 2.4 The Independent Remuneration Panel has met monthly in person since September 2022. Its work reviewed and considered North Lincolnshire

Council's Scheme whilst comparing and benchmarking with several similar sized unitary and other local and national councils. It also provided the opportunity for members to comment on the Scheme and sought the views of the Director: Governance and Communities as the council's S151 Officer.

### **3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

- 3.1 To consider the Independent Remuneration Panel's report appended to the report, and approve a Members' Allowance Scheme for 2023/24, or for a further reasonable period (see paragraph 4.2 below).

### **4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS**

- 4.1 The proposed Members' Allowance Scheme recommended by the IRP for 2023/24 (or for a further reasonable period) is attached at Appendix 2 and includes seven recommendations and two further observations with suggested action on Information Technology and Member Training and Development. Appendix 1 sets out the current scheme previously approved by council in February 2020 for the years 2020/21 – 2022/23.
- 4.2 The Council is required to have regard to the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel and approve a scheme for the financial year 2023/24 (or a further reasonable period but no longer than the forthcoming years within the period of elected administration 2023-2027). By not having regard to the Panel's recommendations and not approving a scheme, the Council will not comply with statutory requirements of the associated Regulations.

### **5 FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (e.g. LEGAL, HR, PROPERTY, IT, COMMUNICATIONS etc.)**

- 5.1 The proposed scheme based on the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel should be self-contained within existing budgets.
- 5.2 There are no other specific relevant implications other than that the Regulations require the Council to consider the Independent Remuneration Panel's report/recommendations before approving its Members' Allowances Scheme.

### **6. OTHER RELEVANT IMPLICATIONS (e.g. CRIME AND DISORDER, EQUALITIES, COUNCIL PLAN, ENVIRONMENTAL, RISK etc.)**

6.1 The current reduction in mileage claimed by members supported by the successful ongoing use of IT software platforms like MS Teams contributes towards themes of the council's greener environmental strategy 'A Green Future: Our Plan for Positive Change'.

7. **OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)**

7.1 Not applicable

8. **OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED**

8.1 Members were given the opportunity to comment as part of the review of the scheme, together with the council's Director: Governance and Communities as its S151 Officer. Members will be aware of the contents of the Independent Remuneration Panel's report prior to the meeting of the Council on 13 February 2023. There are no conflicts of interest.

9. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

9.1 That the Independent Remuneration Panel be thanked for its work and report.

9.2 That the Council consider and have regard to the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel and approve a Members' Allowance Scheme for the financial year 2023/24 (or for a further reasonable period).

9.3 That the approved scheme be published on the Council's website in accordance with the Regulations.

DIRECTOR: GOVERNANCE AND COMMUNITIES

Church Square House  
30-40 High Street  
SCUNTHORPE  
North Lincolnshire  
DN15 6NL

Author: R A Mell

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**Background Papers used in the preparation of this report** - Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel and the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003.