

TEWKESBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL

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| Report to: | Council |
| Date of Meeting: | 20 June 2023 |
| Subject: | Scheme of Members Allowances 2023/2024 |
| Report of: | Head of Democratic Services |
| Head of Service/Director: | Head of Democratic Services |
| Lead Member: | Lead Member for Corporate Governance |
| Number of Appendices: | None |

Executive Summary:

At the meeting of the Council on 17 May 2023 an amendment was made to the Council's political structure which necessitated the Council's Independent Remuneration Panel to meet to make a recommendation on whether the current Scheme of Allowances should be amended.

Recommendation:

To determine whether to amend the Council's Scheme of Allowances 2023/24 after considering the recommendation of the Council's Independent Remuneration Panel that no amendment should be made.

Financial Implications:

The proposed recommendation would result in a reduction of cost totalling £9,150 from the Members allowance budget for 2023/24.

Legal Implications:

The Local Government Act 2000 requires local authorities to make a scheme of allowances payable to Councillors. The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003, require authorities to establish and maintain an Independent Remuneration Panel. The purpose of the Panel is to make recommendations to the authority about the allowances to be paid to Councillors.

The Council is required to consider the recommendations of the Panel when drawing up the scheme of allowances.

Environmental and Sustainability Implications:

None.

Resource Implications (including impact on equalities):

None.

Safeguarding Implications:

None.

Impact on the Customer:

None.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 On 24 January 2023 the Council, following a report of its Independent Remuneration Panel, determined a Scheme of Members Allowances to take effect on 1 April 2023 until 31 March 2024. A Council's scheme may be amended at any time following consideration of the Independent Remuneration Panel's recommendation(s).
- 1.2 At the meeting of the Council on 17 May 2023 an amendment was made to the Council's political structure to allow for membership of the Executive Committee without a portfolio. As this was not considered when the current scheme was approved, which only covered Special Responsibility Allowances for portfolio holders, it was agreed that the Independent Remuneration Panel be asked to meet and make a recommendation to Council as to whether the Scheme required amendment to accommodate this new role.
- 1.3 In determining any amendment to its Scheme, the Council must have regard to any recommendations from the Independent Remuneration Panel but ultimately it is the Council's decision as to whether or not any amendment is made.

2.0 THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL'S RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 The Independent Remuneration Panel met on Monday 7 June 2023 to consider whether an amendment to the current Scheme of Allowances was necessary.
- 2.2 The Panel was mindful of the fact that no Special Responsibility Allowances were paid for membership of a committee such as Planning, which met on a frequent basis similar to the Executive Committee. Accordingly, it was the view of the Panel that no Special Responsibility Allowance should be paid for membership of the Executive Committee without portfolio and no amendment was recommended to the current Scheme of Allowances for 2023/2024.

3.0 CONSULTATION

- 3.1 Not applicable.

4.0 ASSOCIATED RISKS

- 4.1 None.

5.0 MONITORING

- 5.1 None.

6.0 RELEVANT COUNCIL PLAN PRIORITIES/COUNCIL POLICIES/STRATEGIES

- 6.1 None.

Background Papers: Council 24 January 2023; Council 17 May 2023; Council Scheme of Allowances

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Appendices: None.