

SUBJECT:	<i>Amendment to the Members' Allowance Scheme</i>
REPORT OF:	<i>Jim Burness (Director of Resources)</i>
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WARD/S AFFECTED	<i>This report is not ward specific</i>

1. Purpose of Report

To agree a Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA) for the Chairman of Governance & Electoral Arrangements Committee following consultation with the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP).

RECOMMENDATIONS

To agree the level of SRA for Chairman of Governance & Electoral Arrangements Committee having regard to the recommendation of the IRP

2. Reasons for Recommendations

Before amending the Scheme of Allowances the Council must have regard to recommendations from the IRP but retains discretion on the amount of SRA awarded.

3. Content of Report

The Scheme of Allowances for 2017-18 was agreed by Full Council in March as follows:

Post holder	Amount (£)
Basic Allowance (all Members)	4,360
Chairman of the Council	3,491
Vice-Chairman of the Council	1,458
Leader	10,900
Deputy Leader	4,794
Cabinet Member	4,794
Chairman of Planning Committee	3,491
Chairman of Licensing Committee	3,491
Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny Committee	3491
Chairman of Audit Committee	722
Chairman of Personnel Committee	722

Leader of a political group 2+ Members	722
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NOTES: No member shall receive more than one special responsibility allowance

Governance and Electoral Arrangements Committee was established in May to consider and advise Council on revisions and updates to the Constitution and deal with requests for Community Governance Reviews, electoral issues and Council functions not delegated to existing committees. It was agreed that the scheme of allowances be amended to include an SRA for the Chairman and the IRP be consulted on the level of this allowance.

The Committee meets on an ad hoc basis as and when necessary to deal with business. Currently the Committee is undertaking a review of the Constitution and is programmed to meet 4 times before making final recommendations to Council in February 2018.

4. Consultation

The IRP have been consulted and recommend that the appropriate level of SRA is that formerly paid to the chairman of Personnel Committee and currently paid to the chairman of the Audit Committee. In making this recommendation they note that chairmanship of Governance & Electoral Arrangements Committee could involve chairing up the 4 meetings a year depending on business arising and will not involve any additional statutory responsibilities or a requirement to chair sub-committees/task and finish groups. They consider that these responsibilities can be distinguished from the chairmanship of Planning Committee which meets monthly with a requirement to attend site visits and authorise some regulatory processes; Licensing Committee which includes chairing hearing sub-committees and authorising some regulatory processes and Overview & Scrutiny Committee which includes chairing task and finish groups and a statutory role in respect of urgency procedures. Accordingly the IRP considered the special responsibilities of the chairman of Governance & Electoral Arrangements Committee were more comparable to chairing a Personnel Committee.

5. Options

Council can choose to accept the IRP's recommendation or agree a different level of allowance.

6. Corporate Implications

6.1 Financial - A new SRA at £722 would be cost neutral as the Personnel Committee was not re-appointed in May following establishment of the Joint Staffing Committee

6.2 Legal – The Council is required under the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 to have regard to recommendations from the IRP when setting SRAs.

7. Next Step

An amended Scheme of Allowances will be published in accordance with the requirements of the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003.

Background Papers:	None other than those referred to in this report
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