

Report For:	<b>BUCKINGHAMSHIRE SHADOW AUTHORITY</b>
Meeting Date:	<b>3rd June 2019</b>

## SUMMARY

<b>Title of Report:</b>	<b>SCHEME OF MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES 2019/2020</b>
Responsible Officer:	Proper Officer – Sarah Ashmead
Officer Contact: Direct Dial: Email:	Mathew Bloxham 01494 732143 Mathew.Bloxham@chilternandsouthbucks.gov.uk
<b>Recommendation:</b>	<b>That having regard to the recommendations made by the Independent Remuneration Panel the Members' Allowances Scheme at Appendix B be adopted.</b>
Legal & Finance:	The legal implications are set out at paragraph 1 & 2. The financial implications are set out at paragraph 5.
Options:	Before the Buckinghamshire Shadow Authority can make and adopt a Scheme of Allowances or make any in-year variations to an existing scheme, it must first have regard to the report and recommendation of the Independent Remuneration Panel. The Shadow Authority is not bound to adopt the recommendations of the Panel, but in accordance with the principles of good administration, will usually only depart from the recommendations of the Panel where there are good reasons to do so.
Reason: (Executive only)	N/A

## Purpose of this report

The purpose of this report is to seek the Shadow Authority's approval of the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2019/20 (Appendix B) to the period ending 31 March 2020, in order to comply with the requirements of the Buckinghamshire (Structural Changes) Order (SCO), and having regard to the recommendations made by the Independent Remuneration Panel.

## Content of Report

1. Part 6 of the SCO requires the Shadow Authority to prepare and adopt a scheme for the payment of allowances to its members. In order to achieve this the SCO applies the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 to the Shadow Authority and its members in the same way that the Regulations apply to the District Councils and County Council and their members.

2. In order to comply with the 2003 Regulations, the Shadow Authority must adopt a scheme having regard to the recommendations of an Independent Remuneration Panel. In light of the timescales involved, a Panel has been formed by drawing upon the membership of Panels of the existing District Councils and County Council in Buckinghamshire.
3. The Independent Remuneration Panel met on Thursday 14 March 2019. Its recommendations that no basic allowance or special responsibility allowances are payable to Shadow Authority members are set out in the report attached at 'Appendix A' and reflected in the draft Members' allowances scheme attached as 'Appendix B' (subject to the exception noted later in this section). The Panel recommended that members should be entitled to claim travel, subsistence and dependant carers allowances for attending Shadow Authority meetings from their own Councils. The Scheme applies for the "Shadow Period", being the date of commencement of the Shadow Authority until 31 March 2020.
4. In the event that a Member of the Shadow Executive is not in receipt of an SRA from the Council by whom they have been nominated, the Panel recommended that they should receive an SRA from their respective Council, paid pro-rata, equivalent to that paid to a Cabinet Member or Portfolio Holder of the nominating Council.
5. Budget: There will only be budget implications if the Shadow Authority decides to introduce allowances during the Shadow Period and/or if Members not already in receipt of an SRA from their respective Council are also a Shadow Executive Member. The costs arising from the payment of an SRA as per the exception noted in paragraph 5, and claims arising from travel, subsistence and dependent carers allowance will be met by Members' respective councils.

### **Corporate Implications**

6. Once the Shadow Authority has agreed a Scheme, this will be published on the Shadow Authority's website. In addition to this the Shadow Authority is also required by the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 to place an advert in one newspaper in circulation within the Shadow Authority area showing the allowances that may be made to Members.

### **Next Steps**

7. Members' allowances for Buckinghamshire Council from 1 April 2020 will be reviewed by an Independent Remuneration Panel and reported to the Shadow Authority before the end of the Shadow Period.