

Recommendations to the Council

Members' Allowances Scheme - Independent Remuneration Panel Report

1. The County Council is required to establish and maintain an Independent Remuneration Panel to provide advice and recommendations to the Council on its Members' Allowances Scheme. Any decision on the nature and level of allowances are a matter for the full Council, but the Council must have regard to any recommendations submitted by the Independent Remuneration Panel before establishing or amending the Members' Allowances Scheme. The Panel meets each year to consider the recommendations to be made to the Council in respect of the level and nature of the forthcoming year's allowances.

The Independent Remuneration Panel's report of March 2023, including recommendations on the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2023/24, is attached.

As part of their deliberations and in response to feedback from Members of the Council the Panel have proposed to review next year travel and subsistence allowances paid to elected members, basic allowance for members to compare how SCC fares with other local authorities after the pay award has been settled and SRAs of Cabinet Members and Chairpersons of Regulatory Committees.

Recommend – That (a) the Independent Remuneration Panel report be received.

(b) if the Council are minded to support the recommendations of the panel:

- (i) the allowance for the Chairmen of the Council is frozen for the next four years.
- (ii) to reduce the allowance awarded to the Vice-Chairman of the Council so that it equates to 35% of the amount awarded to the Chairman (in line with all other Chair/VC proportions as recommended and agreed in last year's report).
- (iii) the Members' Allowance Scheme within the Council's Constitution be amended to include rules regarding use of toll roads by elected members.

(c) the Independent Remuneration Panel be requested to

- a) Review Travel and Subsistence allowances paid to elected members.
- b) Review basic allowance for members to compare how SCC fares with other local authorities after the pay award has been settled.
- c) Review SRAs of Cabinet Members and Chairpersons of Regulatory Committees.

d) the Audit and Standards Committee convene a Special Panel for the purpose of recruitment of new Independent Remuneration Panel Members.