

## **COUNCIL - MONDAY, 15 JANUARY 2024**

### **Report of the Chief Executive**

#### REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL (IRP) IN RESPECT OF ALLOWANCES PAID TO MEMBERS OF CHARNWOOD BOROUGH COUNCIL FOR 2024/25

##### Purpose of Report

To consider the findings and the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) in respect of allowances paid to members of Charnwood Borough Council and the Scheme of Members' Allowances for 2024/25.

##### Recommendations

1. That Council considers the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel, submitted in accordance with the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 as set out in Appendix A, and agrees to adopt the proposed Scheme of Members' Allowances for the financial year 2024/25 as set out at Appendix B.
2. That the IRP Member allowance be increased from £200 per annum to £300 per annum for the financial year 2024/25.

##### Reason

1. To ensure compliance with the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003.
2. To recompensate the Members of the IRP for their time and commitment.

##### Policy Justification and Previous Decisions

In setting the level of allowances to be paid for each year, the Council is obliged to have regard to recommendations made by an Independent Remuneration Panel.

Attached at Appendix A is the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel in respect of the allowances it recommends should be paid to members of Charnwood Borough Council for the financial year 2024/25.

The increase in the IRP member allowance is an officer recommendation. The amount reflects cost of living and inflationary rises and is in line with similar other positions.

##### Implementation Timetable including Future Decisions and Scrutiny

The revised Scheme of Allowances, if approved, would come into effect at the start of the 2024/25 financial year (ie. 1st April 2024).

## Report Implications

### ***Financial Implications***

The total budgetary impact of the Panel's recommendations in respect of basic and special responsibility allowances would be an increase of just under 10% in the total cost of such allowances.

However, a provisional 5% increase is proposed for next year's allowances budget, and so the net overall financial impact would be just under a further 5% (or around £19.4k).

The increase in the IRP member allowance can be met from the existing allowances scheme.

### ***Risk Management***

No specific risks have been identified in relation to this decision.

### ***Equality and Diversity***

None identified.

### ***Climate Change and Carbon Impact***

None identified.

### ***Crime and Disorder***

None identified.

### ***Wards Affected***

N/A

### ***Publicity Arrangements***

N/A

### ***Consultations***

All Councillors were consulted by e.mail asking if there were any issues they wished the IRP to consider. Councillors were also supplied with some benchmarking information comparing Charnwood's allowances with other nearby district councils, and with some district councils nationally which have similar population sizes to Charnwood.

## Links to the Corporate Strategy

|                            |     |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Caring for the Environment | Yes |
| Healthy Communities        | Yes |
| A Thriving Economy         | Yes |
| Your Council               | Yes |

Key Decision: No

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### Appendices

Appendix A: Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel in Respect of Allowances paid to Members of Charnwood Borough Council

Appendix B: Summary Benchmarking of Member Allowances Schemes

Appendix C: Proposed Scheme of Members' Allowances