

**REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL –
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MEMBERS’ ALLOWANCES FOR 2021-22 AND THE
MEMBERS ALLOWANCES SCHEME**

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|------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Relevant Portfolio Holder | Councillor , M Dormer Leader and Portfolio Holder for Corporate Management |
| Portfolio Holder Consulted | |
| Relevant Head of Service | Claire Felton |
| Ward(s) Affected | All |
| Ward Councillor(s) Consulted | N/A |
| Non-Key Decision | |

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

Each Council is required by law to have an Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) which recommends the level of allowances for Councillors. The Panel is made up of suitably skilled members of the public who are completely independent of the Borough Council. It also makes recommendations to four other District Councils in Worcestershire. The Panel’s report is enclosed for consideration by the Executive Committee and ultimately by the Council.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to consider the report and recommendations and RECOMMEND to Council

2.1 whether or not to accept all, some or none of the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel for 2021-22;

2.2 having considered the Panel’s report and recommendations, whether or not changes are required to the Council’s scheme of allowances for Members arising from this.

3. KEY ISSUES

Financial Implications

3.1 If the Council makes changes to the current amounts of allowances there may be additional savings or costs. If the Council implements all the recommendations of the IRP, using their current scheme, costs would be decreased in the region of £12,500. It should be noted that the scheme recommended by the IRP only allows for one Special Responsibility Allowance per Councillor and does not include a payment for Executive Members without Portfolio.

Legal Implications

- 3.2 The Council is required to “have regard” to the recommendations of the Panel. However, it is not obliged to agree to them. It can choose to implement them in full or in part, or not to accept them.
- 3.3 If the Council decides to review its scheme of allowances for Councillors, it is also required to take into account recommendations from the Panel before doing so.

Service/Operational Implications

- 3.4 There are no direct service or operational implications arising from this report. Once the Council has agreed the allowances for 2021-22 Officers will update and publish the Members' Allowances Scheme as appropriate.

Customer/Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 3.5 None arising from this report.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

Payments to Councillors can be a high profile issue. The main risks are reputational. However, the Council is transparent about the decisions made on allowances. The Allowances scheme and sums paid to Councillors each year are published on the Council's website.

5. APPENDICES

Report and recommendations from the Independent Remuneration Panel for 2021-22.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Members Allowances Scheme – in the Council Constitution at part 18:

<http://moderngovwebpublic.redditchbc.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=379&MId=2511&Ver=4>

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