

REPORT TO EXECUTIVE

Date of Meeting: 4 June 2024

Report of: Chief Executive

Title: Members' Allowances and Expenses Paid 2023/24

Is this a Key Decision?

No

Is this an Executive or Council Function?

Executive

1. What is the report about?

1.1 To report the allowances paid to Elected Members in 2023/24

2. Recommendations:

2.1 The Members of the Executive note the allowances paid and the expenses claimed by Members in 2023/24.

3. Reasons for the recommendation:

3.1 The Council has a statutory obligation to publish all allowances paid, and expenses claimed by Members each financial year.

4. What are the resource implications including non-financial resources:

4.1 There is an existing budget allocation to meet the amount paid in Members' Allowances

5. Section 151 Officer Comments:

5.1 The figures set out in the report broadly align with the figures in the finance system. In overall terms, Members expenses came in under budget for 2023-24.

6. What are the legal aspects?

6.1 The Members Allowances Scheme is governed by the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, and in particular the details are set out in the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003. Publication of the details contained in this report meet these requirements.

7. Monitoring Officer Comments:

7.1 Members will note that members' allowances are usually set in accordance with the recommendations made by the Independent Remuneration Panel.

Simon Copper – Deputy Monitoring Officer.

8. Report details:

8.1 The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 require the Council to publish the total sum of each of the following allowances paid to each recipient in the previous financial year:

- a) Basic allowance;
- b) Special responsibility allowance;
- c) Dependants' carers' allowance;
- d) Travelling and subsistence allowance;
- e) Co-optees' allowance; and
- f) The Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor's expenses allowance.

8.2 A schedule of allowances made and expenses claimed for 2023/24 is attached to this report in Appendix A.

8.3 The amounts paid are in accordance with the Scheme of Member's Allowance as agreed by Council on 12 December 2023, which accepted the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel on Members' Allowances, which included approval of the scheme for 2024/25.

8.4 The report included the detail of remuneration paid for the Council Housing and Development Advisory Board, which is drawn separately from the Housing Revenue Account.

9. How does the decision contribute to the Council's Corporate Plan?

- Ensuring a well-run Council.
- To invoke public confidence that the Council's operation in relation to Members are transparent.

10. What risks are there and how can they be reduced?

10.1 The risks are reduced by the publication of this annual report.

11. Equality Act 2010 (The Act)

11.1 Under the Act's Public Sector Equalities Duty, decision makers are required to consider the need to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other prohibited conduct;
- advance equality by encouraging participation, removing disadvantage, taking account of disabilities and meeting people's needs; and
- foster good relations between people by tackling prejudice and promoting understanding.

11.2 In order to comply with the general duty authorities must assess the impact on equality of decisions, policies and practices. These duties do not prevent the authority from reducing services where necessary, but they offer a way of developing proposals that consider the impacts on all members of the community.

11.3 In making decisions the authority must take into account the potential impact of that decision in relation to age, disability, race/ethnicity (includes Gypsies and Travellers), sex and gender, gender identity, religion and belief, sexual orientation, pregnant women and

new and breastfeeding mothers, marriage and civil partnership status in coming to a decision.

11.4 In recommending this proposal no potential impact has been identified on people with protected characteristics as determined by the Act because the report is for information.

12. Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

12.1 There are no direct carbon/environmental impacts arising from the recommendations.

13. Are there any other options?

13.1 None

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Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1972 (as amended)

None

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