

Report to: **Governance Committee**

Date: **23 June 2020**

By: **Assistant Chief Executive**

Title of report: **Review of Members' Allowances Scheme**

Purpose of report: **To consider the proposals by the Independent Remuneration Panel in relation to the payment of a Special Responsibility Allowance to the Chair of the Pension Committee**

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Governance Committee is recommended to recommend the County Council to:

- 1) approve the changes set out in the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel; and**
 - 2) amend the Members' Allowances Scheme accordingly.**
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1. Background

1.1 The Independent Remuneration Panel is required, by the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003, to make recommendations to the Council on allowances paid to Councillors. In 2017, the Council agreed that the Panel be asked to review the Scheme every four years in accordance with the Regulations unless a request is received from a Group Leader.

1.2 The Independent Remuneration Panel was appointed by the Governance Committee in April 2019 and consists of three members, Daphne Bagshawe, Duncan Keir and Fiona Leathers.

1.3 A number of Group Leaders expressed support for the Panel to consider whether a special responsibility allowance (SRA) should be payable to the Chair of the Pension Committee, and a request was formerly received in March 2020. As part of their review in response to this request the Independent Remuneration Panel considered a range of information provided including comparative information from other County Authorities.

2. Summary of findings

2.1 A copy of the Independent Remuneration Panel report is attached at Appendix 1. The Panel noted that most of the other County Authorities considered for comparative purposes paid an SRA to the Chair of the Pension Committee, the exceptions being where the Chair of the Committee was a member of the Cabinet and therefore receiving an RSA for that role.

2.2 The Independent Remuneration Panel is required to review allowances based on the facts and information provided to it. The Governance Committee is asked to make recommendations to the County Council on whether to accept, reject or modify the recommendations. Councillors are required to give due consideration to the recommendations of the Panel but are not bound by them

2.3 The Panel is recommending:

- a) that an SRA of £6,531 should be payable to the Chair of the Pension Committee - this is the same level of SRA that is payable to the Chairs of the Audit, Planning and Scrutiny Committees; and

b) the SRA should be backdated to 1 April 2020.

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Local Members: All
Background Docs: none