

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Report

Committee:	Independent Remuneration Panel
Date:	29 September 2021
Title:	Amendments to the Members' Allowances Scheme 2021/22
Report From:	Head of Legal and Governance and Monitoring Officer

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Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide information to the County Council's Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) in order to enable the IRP to make its recommendation as to a Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA) for the following roles:
 - Assistant to the Executive – Adult Services and Public Health
 - Assistant to the Executive – Children's Services
 - Chairman of the River Hamble Harbour Board

Recommendations

2. That the IRP consider whether an SRA should attach to the posts listed in paragraph 1 above and be backdated to the date of appointment.
3. That the IRP consider whether the list of approved duties for the purposes of the payment of travelling and other relevant expenses should be amended accordingly to include provision for this role.

Contextual Information

4. The legislative framework governing the payment of Members' Allowances is set out in the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 (the Members' Allowances Regulations).

5. Under the provisions of the Members' Allowances Regulations, the County Council is required to make a Members' Allowances Scheme for the payment each year of Members' Allowances. Provision in respect of the current Members' Allowances for 2021/22 were determined by the County Council at its meeting on 22 February 2018. Once a Members' Allowances Scheme is made for any year it may be amended during the year in question in accordance with the Members' Allowances Regulations. It is also possible under the Members' Allowances Regulations for any amendment to the Members' Allowances Scheme to be backdated to the beginning of the financial year in which any such amendment is made.

6. The essence of the Assistant to the Executive role is to help support and co-ordinate political engagement and to provide political advice and support for the developing work of the County Council. Details of specific roles of Assistant to the Executive – Adult Services and Public Health, and Assistant to the Executive – Children's Services are set out in Appendix 1 and 2 to this report.

7. The essence of the role of Chairman of the River Hamble Harbour Board is to manage the River Hamble Harbour Authority on behalf of Hampshire County Council as a committee of the Cabinet, established further to S.101(1) and S.102(1) of the local Government Act 1972, to which political proportionality applies. Details of the role is set out in Appendix 3 to this report.

Conclusions

8. The recommendation of the IRP will be considered by the County Council's Employment in Hampshire Committee (EHCC) prior to a recommendation to the County Council.

REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Strategic Plan

This proposal does not link to the Strategic Plan but, nevertheless, requires a recommendation consequence of the requirements of the Members' Allowances Regulations.

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:	
Title	Date
Members' Allowances Scheme - Assistant to the Executive	24/09/2019
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives	
Title	Date
Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations	2003

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:

1. Equality Duty

The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by or under the Act with regard to the protected characteristics as set out in section 4 of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation);
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (see above) and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

The recommendations in this report relate to the allowances paid for specific roles of individual elected Members and as such there is no impact on groups with protected characteristics.