

MEMBERS ALLOWANCES SCHEME 2020/21

Council	09 July 2020
Report Author	Nicholas Hughes – Committee Services Manager
Status	For Decision
Classification:	Unrestricted
Key Decision	No
Ward:	All Wards

Executive Summary:

This report is provided to inform the Council of the result of the review of the 2020/21 Members Allowances scheme by the East Kent Joint Independent Remuneration Panel (EKJIRP). Members are asked to consider and have regard to any recommendations from the EKJIRP and agree a final scheme of allowances for the 2020/21 financial year.

Recommendation(s):

To note the comments of the EKJIRP and adopt the 2020/21 Members allowances scheme as set out at annex 1 to this report with effect from 1 April 2020.

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money	<p>If Members agree to the revised scheme of Members allowances as outlined at annex 1 to this report, then there will be no direct financial implications as a result of this report.</p> <p>If Members agree to increase the rate of Members' Allowances by more than that set out in the report, then additional budget or commensurate savings would need to be identified within the 2020/21 budget to cover this increase.</p>
Legal	<p>The Council is required to have regard to the recommendations of EKJIRP in making a scheme of allowances.</p> <p>Section 18 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 permits the Secretary of State, by regulations, to make a scheme providing for the payment of a basic allowance, an attendance allowance and a special responsibility allowance to members of a local authority. Section 100 of the Local Government Act 2000 permits the Secretary of State, by regulations, to provide for travelling and subsistence allowances for members of local authorities, allowances for attending conferences and meetings and reimbursement of expenses. In exercise of these powers the Secretary of State has made the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003.</p> <p>The Regulations require the council to make a scheme before the beginning of each year for the payment of basic allowance. The scheme</p>

	<p>must also make provision for the authority's approach to special responsibility allowance, dependants' carers' allowance, travelling and subsistence allowance and co-optees' allowance. The scheme may also provide for other matters of the kind dealt with in the proposed scheme.</p> <p>When considering the scheme, the Council must have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful conduct under the Equality Act 2010, the need to advance equality of opportunity and the need to foster good relations between persons who share a protected characteristic and those who don't (the public sector equality duty). This consideration should be supported by a proportionate level of equality analysis.</p>								
Corporate	The level of allowances may be seen as both impacting on the public's perception of the Council and a factor in making public services as a Councillor attractive to a broad range of potential candidates.								
Equalities Act 2010 & Public Sector Equality Duty	<p>Members are reminded of the requirement, under the Public Sector Equality Duty (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010) to have due regard to the aims of the Duty at the time the decision is taken. The aims of the Duty are: (i) eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act, (ii) advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it, and (iii) foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.</p> <p>Protected characteristics: age, gender, disability, race, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, religion or belief and pregnancy & maternity. Only aim (i) of the Duty applies to Marriage & civil partnership.</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td colspan="2">Please indicate which aim is relevant to the report.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act,</td> <td style="text-align: center;">✓</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it</td> <td style="text-align: center;">✓</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Although it does not directly relate to protected groups, the draft scheme contains the ability to pay a dependent carers allowance to Councillors. This contributes to aims 1 and 2 of the Equality Act as it removes barriers to Councillors standing who have relatives that may be in need of dependent care.</p>	Please indicate which aim is relevant to the report.		Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act,	✓	Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it	✓	Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.	
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CORPORATE PRIORITIES (tick those relevant) ✓	
Growth	
Environment	
Communities	✓

1.0 Introduction and Background

- 1.1 This paper gives Council the opportunity to review and consider the recommendations from the EKJIRP in relation to the draft 2020/21 members allowances scheme agreed at the Council meeting on the 6 February 2020 and to make any changes to the scheme as a result of their comments.

2.0 Review by EKJIRP

2.1 The 2020/21 Members' Allowances scheme was approved at Council on 6 February 2020, subject to review by the EKJIRP. The EKJIRP has now independently reviewed the scheme at its meeting in the first week of March and agreed the following motion:

"That it be recommended to Thanet District Council that the Members' Allowances Scheme 2020-21, as set out in Annex 1 of the report, be approved".

2.2 As the EKJIRP have not raised any issues with the Allowances scheme previously approved, Council is asked to note the comments of the EKJIRP and agree the scheme of allowance for 2020/21 as set out at Annex 1 to the report.

Contact Officer:	Nicholas Hughes, Committee Services Manager
Reporting to:	Tim Howes, Director of Corporate Governance

Annex List

Annex 1	2020/21 Draft Scheme of Members Allowances
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Background Papers

Title	Details of where to access copy
None	N/A

Corporate Consultation

Finance	Matthew Sanham Financial Services Manager
Legal	Timothy Howes, Director of Corporate Governance and Monitoring Officer