

Carlisle City Council

Report to Council

Meeting Date: 3 January 2023
 Portfolio: Finance, Governance and Resources
 Key Decision: No
 Within Policy and Budget Framework: Yes
 Public / Private: Public

Title: ELECTED MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES 2022/23
 Report of: Corporate Director of Finance and Resources
 Report Number: RD 54/22

Purpose / Summary:

This report provides details of the proposed increase to Members' Allowances for 2022/23.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that Council:

- (i) note the pay award for staff and approve an increase to members' allowances, based upon the options set out in the report, for a one-year period effective from 1 April 2022, to ensure compliance with the approved Elected Members' Allowance Scheme; and
- (ii) approve the virement to utilise revenue savings in the 2022/23 revenue budget to fund the proposed increase if current provisions are not sufficient.

Tracking

Executive:	Not applicable
Scrutiny:	Not applicable
Council:	3 January 2023

1. Background

- 1.1 In exercising its powers conferred by the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003, the City Council has an Elected Members' Allowances Scheme ("the Scheme") in place.
- 1.2 This Scheme, prepared following recommendations made by the Independent Remuneration Panel, sets out, amongst other items, the level of basic, special responsibility and dependent carer's allowances paid. This was agreed by Council at its meeting on 2 March 2021 and set the allowances for 2021/22.
- 1.3 The Panel also determines the process for the annual review of these allowances, which is set out in the Scheme as follows:
 - The Basic Allowance, Special Responsibility Allowance and Dependent Carer's Allowance* shall be index linked to the Council's annual salary increase for staff and submitted annually for approval by Council.
 - Travel and Subsistence rates will also be index linked to the Council's annual increase for staff and submitted annually for approval by Council.

*Subsequently agreed that this be increased in line with the National Living Wage rather than being aligned to the annual salary increase for staff.

- 1.4 In accordance with the above process, this report now deals with any potential increase in respect of 2022/23 now that the pay award for staff has been agreed.

2 Proposals

- 2.1 On the 1 November 2022 the National Joint Council (NJC) for Local Government Services announced the details of the 2022 Pay agreement for staff which had been agreed with the NJC Trade Union Side.
- 2.2 A one-year pay increase has been agreed for all staff (including Chief Officers) who will receive a flat rate annual increase of £1,925 per annum, this being backdated to 1 April 2022. For Carlisle this ranges from a 10.08% increase for those on the lowest NJC grade to a 4.04% increase for those on the highest NJC grade.
- 2.3 In accordance with the Scheme, specific members' allowances detailed at paragraph 1.3 above, should be index linked to the agreed position for staff; however, as a flat rate has been agreed rather than the usual percentage uplift, a range of options has been provided based upon the highest and lowest for staff on the NJC scales, 10.08% and 4.04% respectively, and also the equivalent of the flat

rate increase of £1,925 (39% on Basic Allowance) although this flat rate increase would not be compliant with the requirements of the Members' Allowances Scheme. **Appendix A** provides the impact of these different scenarios on the allowances paid and the financial impact is shown below:

	10.08%	4.04%	Flat rate £1,925 (39%)
Annual additional cost	£30,500	£12,500	£110,500

2.4 Members are asked to consider the options and approve an increase effective from 1 April 2022. Any backdated payments will be made in February 2023. Travel and Subsistence rates will continue to mirror those paid to staff.

3 Risk

3.1 None

4 Consultation

4.1 None

5 Conclusion and Reasons for recommendations

5.1 It is recommended that Council note the pay award for staff and approve an increase to members' allowances for a one-year period, based upon the options set out in the report, effective from 1 April 2022, to ensure compliance with the approved Elected Members' Allowance Scheme, and to approve a virement to utilise revenue savings in the 2022/23 revenue budget to fund the proposed increase if current provisions are not sufficient.

6 Contribution to the Carlisle Plan Priorities

6.1 To fulfil the requirements of the Independent Remuneration Panel and the Elected Members' Allowances Scheme as contained within the Council's Constitution.

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Appendices attached to report:

- Appendix A Elected Members' Allowances Options

Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government Act 1972 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers:

- None

Corporate Implications:

Legal - As stated within the body of the Report, the rules appertaining to Members' allowances are set out in the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) Regulations 2003 (SI1021). The recommendation within the report follows the Council's Elected Members' Allowances Scheme in terms of annual increases.

Property Services – There are no Property implications.

Finance – A proposed increase is in line with the requirements of the Independent Remuneration Panel and the Elected Members' Allowances Scheme and whichever option is agreed can be funded from within existing budgets including the inflation/pay award provision and savings contained elsewhere in the revenue budget which will be vired in accordance with the Council's Scheme of Virement, if required.

Equality - Included in the report, notably the Dependent Carer's Allowance.

Information Governance - There are no information governance implications.

APPENDIX A**Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances (SRA) Options**

Allowances	Current	10.08% (Highest)	4.04% (Lowest)	£1,925 (flat rate)
Basic Allowance	£4,887	£5,382	£5,085	£6,812
Leader of the Council	£17,967	£19,782	£18,693	£19,892
Deputy Leader	£11,229	£12,360	£11,685	£13,154
Executive Portfolio Holder	£6,735	£7,416	£7,008	£8,660
Chair of Development Cttee	£4,497	£4,953	£4,680	£6,422
Chair of Audit Cttee	£4,497	£4,953	£4,680	£6,422
Chair of Scrutiny Panels	£4,497	£4,953	£4,680	£6,422
Chair of Licensing Panel	£1,128	£1,242	£1,176	£3,053
Chair of Regulatory Panel	£1,128	£1,242	£1,176	£3,053
Chair of Appeals Panels	£1,128	£1,242	£1,176	£3,053
Minority Group Leaders				
Less than 5 Members	£0	£0	£0	£0
5 to 9 Members	£2,247	£2,475	£2,340	£4,172
10 to 14 Members	£3,375	£3,714	£3,516	£5,300
Over 14 Members	£4,497	£4,953	£4,680	£6,422
Co-opted members of Standards Cttee				
Chair	£510	£562	£531	£2,435
Member	£255	£282	£264	£2,180