

To the Chair and Members of the COUNCIL

MEMBER'S ALLOWANCE SCHEME 2017/18

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report seeks Council approval of the Member Allowance Scheme for 2017/18.

EXEMPT REPORT

2. Not exempt

RECOMMENDATIONS

3. That Council:-
 - I. Confirm whether it wishes to accept or reject the 1% increase on Members allowances effective from 1st April 2017, the current rates of allowance and the rates including the proposed 1% increase from 1st April 2017 are detailed at Appendix A
 - II. Note that this is a collective decision of Council however, any Councillors who wish to forego any part of their allowance may do so by notifying the Director of Finance and Corporate Services in writing.
 - III. Confirm that in future the Member Allowance Scheme be considered annually by Council to take account of any proposed annual inflationary increase.
 - IV. Note that a comprehensive review of the Member Allowance Scheme be undertaken during 2017

BACKGROUND

4. In accordance with the Local Authorities (Member Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003, the Council is required to agree a Scheme in respect of payment of allowances to each Member of the Authority (basic allowance) and any additional payments to authority Member's for additional responsibilities (special responsibility allowances) e.g. Chair of a Committee, Cabinet Member or Group Leader. The Council's basic allowance is an all-inclusive allowance paid to all Members and the Mayor and covers such expenses as travel within the Borough, parking and subsistence.
5. One of the requirements of the Scheme is to make provision for an annual adjustment of allowances and the Council must not rely on that index for a period of more than 4 years. When the scheme was last reviewed on 27th November 2014, it was agreed that the inflationary index for determining annual increases in Member allowances be in line with the National Joint

Council (NJC) pay award for Local Government employees. This increase was incorporated within the revised scheme agreed by Council effective from 1st April 2015.

6. In January 2016 the National Joint Council for Local Government Services agreed the NJC pay award would incorporate a 1% increase from 1st April 2016 and a further 1% effective from 1st April 2017. In 2016 Members were informed of the implementation of the pay award and the changes to the Scheme. Those Members who wished to forego the payment of the increase on their allowance contacted the Director of Finance and Corporate Services directly or via their respective Groups. Appendix A details the Scheme and rates payable from 1st April 2016 and the proposed rates from April 2017.
7. The Regulations state that before the Council can make or amend its Scheme it shall have regard to recommendations made to it by its Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP). However, where the only change made to a Scheme is consideration of the annual adjustment made in accordance with the agreed index, the Scheme shall be deemed not to have been amended. The Regulations require Council to consider the inclusion of the pay award on an annual basis. Council is asked to note that the award of an annual inflationary adjustment from 1st April 2017 is the only aspect of the scheme Council is asked to consider. It cannot for example, increase or reduce any of the other allowances or make retrospective changes to annual inflationary indexes that may have already been implemented.
8. It is recommended that a full review of the Member's Allowances Scheme be undertaken during the course of the year to ensure it remains fit for purpose and takes account of any relevant changes that impact on the duties undertaken by Councillors. Any amendments would need to be presented and agreed by Council before being implemented with effect from 1st April 2018.
9. Should Council agree to accept or reject the 1% increase this will be a binding decision on all Councillors however, the Scheme does provide for any Member to forego any part of their allowance at any time by notifying the Director of Finance and Corporate Services in writing.
10. To ensure there is greater transparency and consistency in administering the Scheme in future, Council is asked to confirm whether it wishes to accept the 1% increase on allowances from 1st April 2017 and approve the Scheme for the forthcoming year. Appendix A sets out the allowance payable to Members for 2016/17 and the amount which includes an additional 1% that is effective from 1st April 2017. If agreed, these new amounts will be incorporated into the Member's Allowance Scheme 2017/18.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

11. The two main options are:
 - i. Not to consider approving the Members Allowance Scheme 2017/18.
 - ii. To approve a Members Allowance Scheme 2017/18

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

12. Seeking a full Council decision on the scheme for 2017/18 and future years will provide transparency and clarity on the payment of allowances to elected Members.

IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OUTCOMES

13.

	Outcomes	Implications
	<p>All people in Doncaster benefit from a thriving and resilient economy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Creating Jobs and Housing</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Be a strong voice for our veterans</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Protecting Doncaster's vital services</i> 	
	<p>People live safe, healthy, active and independent lives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Safeguarding our Communities</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Bringing down the cost of living</i> 	
	<p>People in Doncaster benefit from a high quality built and natural environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Creating Jobs and Housing</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Safeguarding our Communities</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Bringing down the cost of living</i> 	
	<p>All families thrive.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Protecting Doncaster's vital services</i> 	
	<p>Council services are modern and value for money.</p>	
	<p>Working with our partners we will provide strong leadership and governance.</p>	<p>Seeking Council approval of the scheme will provide clarity and accountability thereby supporting good</p>

RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

14. There are no specific risks associated with this report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

15. The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003, provides for the establishment and approval of a scheme of allowance for elected Members. A scheme or any changes to the scheme including basic allowances or Special Responsibility allowances are a Full Council decision and this must take account of the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel. However, where a scheme makes provision for an annual adjustment of allowances and where the only change made to a scheme in any year is that affected by such annual adjustment the scheme shall be deemed not to have been amended. In this case there is no requirement for a further recommendation from the Independent Remuneration Panel before Council consideration.
16. The Council is required to maintain up to date details of its Scheme and to publish this on its website annually together with details of allowances paid to its Members (both basic and Special Responsibility allowances) for the previous 12 months i.e. 1st April to 31st March.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

17. In January 2016 the National Joint Council for Local Government Services agreed the JNC pay award would incorporate a 1% increase from 1st April 2016 and a further 1% effective from 1st April 2017.
18. In 2016, Members contacted the Director of Finance and Corporate Services directly or via their respective Groups to confirm whether they wished to waive the 1% increase. Those Members that did not contact the Director of Finance and Corporate Services to waive the allowance received the 1% increase.
19. Council is asked to confirm whether it wishes to accept the 1% increase on allowances from 1st April 2017 and approve the Scheme for the forthcoming year. Appendix A sets out the revisions to the basic responsibility allowance and Special responsibility allowances should the 1% increase be accepted. If agreed these new amounts will be incorporated into the Member's Allowance Scheme 2017/18.
20. The respective member allowance budgets have been increased in 16/17 and 17/18 to reflect the 1% increase, as per Appendix A.

HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

21. There are no specific HR implications associated with this report.

TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS

22. There are no specific technology implications associated with this report.

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

23. There are no specific equality issues in respect of this report.

CONSULTATION

24. Elected Members have been informed of the proposed 1% pay award.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

25. Independent Remuneration Report to Council on 27th November 2014.

REPORT AUTHOR & CONTRIBUTORS

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APPENDIX A

MEMBERS ALLOWANCES

ALLOWANCE	CURRENT RATE EFFECTIVE FROM 1st APRIL 2016	ADDITIONAL 1% EFFECTIVE FROM 1st APRIL 2017
Basic (all inclusive allowance for expenses e.g. travel in the Borough, parking and subsistence)	£12,241.20	£12,363.61
Mayor	£48,964.80	£49,454.45
Deputy Mayor	£15,301.50	£15,454.52
Civic Mayor	£12,241.20	£12,363.61
Deputy Civic Mayor	£1,224.12	£1,236.32
Cabinet Member	£12,241.20	£12,363.61
Chairs		
Planning Committee	£6,120.60	£6,181.81
Elections & Democratic Structures Committee	£1,224.12	£1,236.32
Audit Committee	£6,120.60	£6,181.81
Licensing Committee	£6,120.60	£6,181.81
Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee	£12,241.20	£12,363.61
Vice Chairs		
Planning Committee	£2,448.24	£2,472.72
Licensing Committee	£2,448.24	£2,472.72
Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee	£3,060.30	£3,090.90
Group Leaders		
30 or more Members	£6,120.60	£6,181.81
15-29 Members inclusive	£2,448.24	£2,472.72
5-14 Members inclusive	£1,224.12	£1,236.32
Co-optees		
Children & Young People Overview & Scrutiny Panel	£612.06	£618.18
Audit Committee	£612.06	£618.18
Co-optee who is also Chair of CYP O&S Panel	£3,060.30	£3,090.90
Co-optee on any other Council Committee	£612.06	£618.18