

COUNCIL 14th FEBRUARY 2024**Standards Committee, 9th January 2024****9 MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME FOR THE YEAR 1ST APRIL 2024 TO 31ST MARCH 2025**

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services submitted a written report seeking consideration to the approval of a Members' Allowances Scheme for the year 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025. A year was defined by the Regulations as "any period of 12 months ending on 31st March in any year". The next "year" commenced on the 1st April 2024 and a scheme would need to be approved for that year. The Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 govern the making of a Members' Allowances Scheme. The Regulations particularly required that before the beginning of each year an authority shall make a scheme which shall provide for the payment of a basic allowance and may provide for the payment of special responsibility allowances, a co-optees allowance, dependent carers' allowance and travel and subsistence allowances.

The current Members' Allowances Scheme was approved by the Council on 15th February 2023. In approving the Scheme for 2023/2024 the Council also agreed to continue the annual adjustment provision. If it was intended to not apply the annual adjustment in 2024/2025 then this would need to be recommended to the Council.

During discussions Members considered the benefits and disadvantages of not increasing allowances in line with Local Government Staff. Some of the points raised were the impact on peoples finances due to the cost-of-living crisis and attracting new candidates to become Councillors when there could be financial implications for them. Members also discussed the need to hold a review on Members Allowances prior to the all out elections in 2026.

***RESOLVED that it be recommended to the Council that the:**

(a) Members' Allowances Scheme approved by the Council on 15th February 2023, be approved for the year 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025; and

(b) annual adjustment provision for Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances for the year 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025 should be applied, meaning that there would be an increase in those allowances in May 2024 in line with Local Government Staff.

Original reports considered can be found on the Council's website as follows:

[Standards Committee on Monday, 8th January, 2024, 6.00 pm Minute 9](#)