

East Herts Council Report

Council

Date of meeting: Wednesday 1 March 2023

Report by: James Ellis, Head of Legal and Democratic Services

Report title: Extension of the 2022/23 Member Allowance Scheme

Ward(s) affected: (All Wards);

Summary – To extend the 2022/23 Scheme for Members' Allowances into the 2023/24 Civic Year to allow the Independent Remuneration Panel to meet the new Council after the District elections on 4 May 2023.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COUNCIL:

- a) **To approve the extension of the 2022/23 Scheme of Members' Allowances until the Council meeting held on 26 October 2023.**

1.0 Proposal(s)

1.1 As above

2.0 Background

2.1 [The Local Authorities \(Members' Allowances\) \(England\) Regulation 2003](#) states that an Independent Remuneration

Panel should be established and produce a report making recommendations to the Scheme of Members' Allowances.

- 2.2 The council's Independent Remuneration Panel usually meet every year to consider the Scheme of Members' Allowances and recommend changes to Council. The Panel last met in early 2022 and the Council agreed some of their recommendations at the Annual Council meeting on 11 May 2022.
- 2.3 Paragraph 20.1.2 of the current Scheme states that the arrangements apply for the civic year from the next day after the meeting of the Council (12 May 2022) to the date of the next annual meeting of the Council (17 May 2023), unless the Council decided otherwise.
- 2.4 The Panel usually meet January - March each year to prepare a report for Annual Council. This report is recommending that the current Scheme be extended so that the Panel can meet after the election to allow them to interview the new Council.

3.0 Reason(s)

- 3.1 To ensure Members continue to receive their allowances into 2023/24 and to allow the Independent Remuneration Panel to complete their review into the current scheme with the new Council post-election.

4.0 Options

4.1 To not approve an extension – NOT RECOMMENDED as this will mean Members will not be paid their allowances after 17 May 2023.

5.0 Risks

5.1 If the Scheme is not extended, it becomes invalid and Members will not be paid their allowances.

6.0 Implications/Consultations

Community Safety

No

Data Protection

No

Equalities

No

Environmental Sustainability

No

Financial

No – arrangements will remain the same until the Independent Remuneration Panel meet again in summer 2023.

Health and Safety

No

Human Resources

No

Human Rights

No

Legal

Yes, the scheme of allowances must comply with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003. The regulations require the Council to have a scheme of allowances, and the current scheme was in place for the 2022/23 Civic Year and therefore must be extended until the Panel makes recommendations for 2023/24.

Specific Wards

No

7.0 Background papers, appendices and other relevant material

7.1 The current Members Allowance Scheme is attached.

Contact Officer

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