



North  
Northamptonshire  
Council

## Democracy and Standards Committee 8<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Report Title	Independent Review Panel (IRP) – Review of Members’ Allowances 2022
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### List of Appendices

- Appendix A1 –** Copy of Briefing Report 2022
- Appendix A2 -** Minute extract 25.2.21
- Appendix B -** Copy of current approved Allowance Scheme 2021/22
- Appendix C -** Quantitative Data

*Please note – that appendices references in the Copy of Briefing Report 2022 relate to those appendices circulated to Members by email on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022. Appendix D The Corporate Plan has not been reproduced for this report.*

### 1. Purpose of Report

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- 1.1. For the Committee to note the current consultation underway in relation to a review of the Members’ Allowances Scheme, and for the Committee to determine whether it wished to make any representations to the IRP prior to the closing date for consultation responses on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2022.

### 2. Executive Summary

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- 2.1. A review of the approved Members Allowances Scheme is currently underway. This commenced on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022. A timetable for the completion of the review process is indicated within the Briefing Report (Appendix A1) on Page 9 section 3.
- 2.2. Following completion of the review process the IRP’s report will be submitted to Annual Council on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2022 for consideration.

### 3. Recommendations

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3.1. It is recommended: -

- (a) The Committee note the Members' Allowances consultation underway; and
- (b) Whether they wish to make direct representation to the IRP on behalf of the Committee and the nature of that representation.

3.2. *(Reason for Recommendations – to allow the Committee the opportunity to comment on the current Members' Allowances consultation).*

### 4. Report Background

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4.1. The Briefing Report (Appendix A1) details the scope of the review, within the statutory guidelines laid down. The review is being undertaken over a longer timetable than previously to allow plenty of opportunity for Members to register their views and comments for consideration by the IRP.

The IRP is requested to review the level and application of the following allowances, and make recommendations for any changes that it considers necessary following the review -

- a basic allowance for 78 unitary councillors
- special responsibility allowances for the Leader, Deputy Leader and Executive Members
- allowances for the leaders of recognised political groups
- special responsibility allowances for the Chairs and Vice Chairs of Committees
- an allowance and the application of travel and subsistence allowances for the Independent Person(s) and Co-opted Members.
- appropriate civic allowances for the Chair and Deputy Chair of the council
- childcare and dependants' carer's allowances

taking account of: -

- (a) quantitative data relating the operation of the governance structure from 26th May 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021 (See **Appendix C**);
- (b) qualitative information received from representations received; and
- (c) the Council's Corporate Plan, which was adopted by Council on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021

## **5. Issues and Choices**

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- 5.1. The Committee is invited to note the current consultation exercise and to determine whether it wishes collectively to make representations, the nature of those representations and the manner they wish to be relayed to the IRP (i.e.. In writing and/or by virtual meeting).
- 5.2. Members are reminded that they are entitled to make individual representations to the IRP or respond through their respective recognised political group.

## **6. Next Steps**

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- 6.1. Any comments or representations the Committee wish to make will be relayed to the IRP for consideration. It should be noted that the Committee do not have a mandate to make representations on behalf of the whole Council but may do so on behalf of the Committee only.
- 6.2. It should be noted that the IRP's final report will be considered by the Committee on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2022, where the Committee may wish to make comment. The final report is also due to be considered by the Executive on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2022. Any comments made by the Committee and the Executive will accompany the final report when submitted to Full Council for determination on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

## **7. Implications (including financial implications)**

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### **7.1. Resources and Financial**

- 7.1.1. None specific to this report. Any potential financial implications will be considered upon the outcome of the IRP review process.

### **7.2. Legal and Governance**

The review is being undertaken within the regulations laid down by statute. Full Council are required to consider the outcomes of the IRP review exercise and pay appropriate notice to those outcomes..

### **7.3. Relevant Policies and Plans**

None specific to this report.

### **7.4. Risk**

- 7.4.1. None specific to this report.

### **7.5. Consultation**

- 7.5.1. All Members are being consulted on this item.

7.6. **Equality Implications**

None specific to this report.

7.7. **Climate Impact**

None specific to this report.

**7.8. Community Impact**

None specific to this report.

**7.9. Crime and Disorder Impact**

7.9.1. None specific to this report.

**8. Background Papers**

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8.1. Council Constitution.