

Blaby District Council
Independent Remuneration Panel

Date of Meeting 7 October 2025
Title of Report **Review of Members' Allowances Scheme**
Report Author Senior Democratic Services & Scrutiny Officer

1. What is this report about?

- 1.1 To seek recommendations from the Independent Remuneration Panel in relation to any changes required to the Members' Allowances Scheme.

2. Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 That the Independent Remuneration Panel considers what changes (if any) should be made to the Members' Allowances Scheme.

3. Reason for Decision(s) Recommended

- 3.1 It is appropriate for the Panel to consider whether changes should be made to the Members Allowances Scheme and recommend them to Council.

4. Matters to consider

4.1 Background

The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 require a Local Authority to take into account any recommendations of an Independent Panel when considering setting the Member Allowances Scheme.

The Panel is required to consider whether any changes are required to the scheme in relation to the following:

1. The payment of a basic allowance to all Councillors
2. The payment of any special responsibility allowances
3. The payment of travel and subsistence expenses
4. The payment of Dependent Carer allowances

The Panel, in considering the Members' Allowance Scheme, will also consider the following:

1. At a full Council meeting on Tuesday 30 January 2024, Members considered a report by the IRP (attached at Appendix A). The

recommendations as detailed in the report were approved, apart from one recommendation which Council asked the Panel to reconsider.

The following recommendation: *'That Opposition Group Leaders be paid a SRA if Group consists of 5 or more Members. (Note - this will remove the SRA for the Green Group Leader)'* was referred back to the Panel to enable Opposition Group Leaders and other Members to make representations on the proposal.

The minutes of the Council meeting are attached at Appendix A, see minute ref. 218 on page 163.

2. A request has also been received for the Panel to reconsider the amount payable to Planning Committee Members, in respect of duties held with attending the Committee (excluding the Chairman and Vice-Chairman), currently £20 per meeting.

Officers will be available at the meeting for any further questions members of the Panel may have including some comparator information from other Council's to assist in the process, which has been attached as Appendix C and D.

4.2 Proposal(s)

That the Independent Remuneration Panel, make recommendations to Council in relation to any amendments to the Members' Allowances Scheme

4.3 Relevant Consultations

All Councillors have been invited to submit representations to the Panel, either in writing or attending in person.

4.4 Significant Issues

None.

- 4.5 In preparing this report, the author has considered issues related to Human Rights, Legal Matters, Human Resources, Equalities, Public Health Inequalities and there are no areas of concern.

5. Environmental impact

- 5.1 No Net Zero and Climate Impact Assessment (NZCIA) is required for this report.

6. What will it cost and are there opportunities for savings?

- 6.1 Additional costs or savings will arise from any changes in the Scheme, these will be considered by the Panel and at the meeting of Council when the decision is taken to amend the Members' Allowances Scheme.

7. What are the risks and how can they be reduced?

- 7.1 None.

8. Other options considered

- 8.1 None – it is requirement of the 2003 regulations to regularly review the Members' Allowance Scheme through the Independent Remuneration Panel.

9. Appendix

- 9.1 Appendix A – IRP Recommendations presented to Council on 30 January 2024 and the subsequent minutes of the meeting.
- 9.2 Appendix B – Current Members' Allowances Scheme.
- 9.3 Appendix C – Comparison of Local Authorities (benchmarked data) of Members' Allowances.
- 9.4 Appendix D – Comparison of Local Authorities Planning Committee Allowances.
- 9.5 Appendix E – Members' Roles and Responsibilities.

10. Background paper(s)

- 10.1 The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003.

11. Report author's contact details

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