

**TEIGNBRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL
FULL COUNCIL
14 JANUARY 2021**

Report Title	Members Allowances 2021/22
Purpose of Report	To consider the Independent Remuneration Panel's (IRP) recommendations regarding Special Responsibilities Allowance(s) following the recent changes to the committee structure, approved at the adjourned Annual Council on 3 September 2020.
Recommendation(s)	<p>The IRP RECOMMENDS to Full Council that the following changes to the Members' Allowances Scheme with effect from 3 September 2020:</p> <p>(1) The Special Responsibility Allowance for the Chairs of Overview and Scrutiny Committee be a multiplier of 1.1 and Vice Chairs of Overview & Scrutiny Committees be a multiplier of 0.3:</p> <p>(2) The Special Responsibility Allowance for the Chair of Licensing and Regulatory Committee be a multiplier of 0.75 and the Vice Chair of Licensing and Regulatory Committee be a multiplier of 0.40: and</p> <p>(3) The Special Responsibility Allowance for the voting Executive Member without portfolio be a multiplier of 1.1.</p>
Financial Implications	<p>The new SRA structure agreed on the 3 September 2020 is currently causing a budget pressure of £14,068 if the IRP Recommendations are adopted then this budget pressure will be reduced to £7,177.</p> <p>Systems Accountant Email: Chris.Ormerod@Teignbridge.gov.uk</p>
Legal Implications	<p>Before making any changes to its Allowances Scheme the Council must have regard to the recommendations of an independent remuneration panel. The scheme for 2021-2022 should also be approved by full Council before the commencement of the revised scheme.</p> <p>Solicitor to the Council Email: Karen.Trickey@teignbridge.gov.uk</p>
Report Author	Democratic Services on behalf of the Independent Remuneration Panel
Executive Member	Corporate Resources – Cllr Keeling
Appendix	Appendix 1 – proposed changes to SRA

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Teignbridge District Council has an established Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP), comprising of five representatives from the business and voluntary sector and a remuneration scheme, which provides for a reasonable recompense for the time, commitment and duties involved in being an Elected Member. This scheme also includes Special Responsibility Allowances (SRA) for Members that undertake additional roles such as an Executive Member or Committee Chair.

2. REPORT DETAILS

- 2.1 The Council's IRP met in November 2020 to consider the current multipliers applied to the Basic Allowance for the SRA's for the changes approved at the Adjourned Annual Council 3 September 2020 as below:-
- Formation of two Overview and Scrutiny Committees consisting of 13 Members each. (The eight Executive Member portfolios were equally divided between the two committees).
 - The merger of the Licensing Committee and the Regulatory and Appeals Committee to form the Licensing and Regulatory Committee
 - Appointment of a voting Executive Member without a portfolio.
- 2.2 A questionnaire was circulated prior to the IRP meeting to the Chair and Vice Chairs of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees and Licensing Committee, and a separate questionnaire to the Executive Member without a portfolio. Responses to the questionnaire provided information regarding the amount of time members considered they spent undertaking their Special Responsibilities. Councillors Bullivant, H Cox and Purser also attended the Panel meeting to support their responses to the questionnaire.
- 2.3 The Panel considered that whilst the areas of responsibility of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees had halved, the amount of work that the Chairs were now undertaking had not reduced proportionally, with the work of the Committees now being more in depth, focused and the formation of more review groups.
- 2.3 Therefore, in recognising the work that the Chairs and Deputy Chairs of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee were undertaking the Panel felt it appropriate that an SRA for the Chairs of a multiplier of 1.1 (£6,316 pa) and the Deputy Chairs a multiplier of 0.3 (£1,722 pa) be applied.
- 2.4 The Panel also considered the merger of the Licensing Act 2003 Committee and the Regulatory and Appeals Committee to form the Licensing and Regulatory Committee. It was noted by the Panel that employee staff appeals are no longer within the remit of this committee and that objections to Tree Preservations Orders are now considered by Planning Committee.
- 2.5 The Panel therefore concluded that the Chair of Licensing and Regulatory Committee should receive a multiplier of 0.75 (£4,307 pa) and the Deputy Chair a multiplier of 0.40 (£2,297 pa) this being the same SRA as the Chair and Deputy Chair of the previous Licensing Act 2003 Committee.
- 2.5 When considering the newly appointed position of the Executive Member without portfolio which has voting rights. It was acknowledged that the Executive Member has a variety of useful skills and experience and as such has a broad remit, working with colleagues on the Council's response to Covid, and acting as advocate to the Executive. In recognition of the

work that this new role was undertaking the Panel were of the view that a SRA of a multiplier of 1.1 (£6,316 pa) would be applicable.

- 2.6 The Panel considered it was relevant to make recommendations on the new positions only, and not to consider all SRA's. The latter was best placed with the full review of the Members Allowance Scheme before the next elections.
- 2.7 The incorporation of the recommended SRAs in the adopted Scheme of Members Allowances ensures that the Council supports the democratic process of transparency and accountability. It also ensures all interested persons are aware of the remuneration levels available to Councillors.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 3.1 The Council can decide not to follow the recommendations of the IRP and propose alternative SRA's.

