

**Members Allowance Scheme 2019-2022**

**REPORT TO FULL COUNCIL**



<b>DATE</b>	<b>26/02/2020</b>
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**PURPOSE**

1. To consider amendments to the Members Allowance Scheme 2019- 2022.

**RECOMMENDATION**

2. That Full Council set the level of Members Allowances for 2019- 2022 as set out in paragraphs 7 of this report and shown Appendix 1 to this report.

**REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

3. The Local Authorities (Members Allowances)(England) Regulations 2003 state that an Authority may not set or amend its Members Allowance Scheme unless it has considered the findings of an Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP).

Whilst the Council must have regard to the advice of the IRP it is for Council to set the scheme.

The Local Authorities (Members Allowances)(England) Regulations 2003 require that the setting of a Members Allowance Scheme must be determined by the Council prior to 1<sup>st</sup> April each year and the Scheme be published in a local newspaper.

**SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS**

4. The Independent Remuneration Panel conducted a review of the members' allowance scheme during 2018 and its findings were considered and approved by Full Council at its meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2018.
5. During its deliberations in 2018 the Panel was specifically asked by the political Group Leaders to review the special responsibility allowance paid to opposition group leaders. This was because of the increasing and fluctuating number of opposition groups which was impacting on the budget. The recommendation of the Panel at that time was for the opposition group leaders to be paid an equal share of one pot of money set at the level of a basic allowance. This was approved by Council.

6. Since the IRP report (December 2018) the political balance of the Council has changed and Burney is now a hung Council. The Executive is a coalition of three political groups, Burnley and Padiham Independent, Liberal Democrat and Conservative. This has led to members questioning what constitutes an opposition group for the purposes of an opposition group leaders allowance.
7. The IRP has been consulted on this and has concluded that the Members Allowance Scheme should be amended as follows -

**Leader(s) of opposition group(s) - to be allocated to leaders of groups who are 'in opposition' i.e. who are not represented on the Executive, the sum specified is to be the equivalent of one basic allowance divided equally amongst them.**

8. Further clarification has also been sought on approved duties for which members can claim expenses and following consultation with the IRP the following is recommended to be added to the scheme

#### **Approved Duties**

Attendance at any of the following meetings or events in column 1 is specified as an approved duty for the purpose of the payment of travelling and subsistence allowances and dependents' carers' allowances for the persons specified in column 2

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Persons qualified for allowance</b>
Council	Councillor
Committee	Member of that committee
Sub-committee	Member of that sub-committee
Joint committee	Member of that committee appointed or nominated by Burnley Borough Council
Committee chairman's briefing	Chairman and vice-chairman
Tender opening	One Chairman
Site visit	Member of the committee or sub-committee under whose auspices the visit has been arranged
Course, seminar or conference	Member authorised to attend by the Member Structures and Support Working Group or the Chief Operating Officer
Any other external organisation	Member appointed or nominated to the organisation, or nominated to attend its meetings, by the council
Any other meeting or event at which the attendance of a member is invited or sanctioned by an officer	Member whose attendance is invited or sanctioned

<b>FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGET PROVISION</b>
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9. None. The pot of money to be shared among opposition Group Leaders remains at one basic allowance.

#### **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

10. Council must have regard to the IRP recommendations before it can amended its Members Allowance Scheme..

#### **DETAILS OF CONSULTATION**

11. Member Structures and Support Working Group.

#### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

12. None

#### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

**PLEASE CONTACT:**

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**ALSO:**

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