

Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel on the Members' Allowance Scheme for 2022-2025

REPORT TO FULL COUNCIL



DATE	08/12/2021
PORTFOLIO	none
REPORT AUTHOR	Independent Remuneration Panel members
TEL NO	01282 477258
EMAIL	igrady@burnley.gov.uk

PURPOSE

1. To consider the findings of the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) in respect of a Members' Allowance Scheme from 1st April 2022.

RECOMMENDATION

2. (1) That the Council receives and considers recommendations from the Independent Remuneration Panel for a scheme of members' allowances from 1st April 2022.
- (2) That it be noted that the Members Allowance Scheme will be set by Council at its meeting on 23rd February 2022.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

3. The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 require that before Council can determine its members' allowances it must have regard to a report from the Independent Remuneration Panel.

The Panel is required to publish its findings prior to a final decision being taken by Council in February 2022.

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS

4. The Independent Remuneration Panel has conducted a review of the members' allowance scheme in Burnley and the Panel's report is attached at Appendix 1.
5. In the course of its review the Panel sought the views of members on the current members' allowance scheme, the level of allowances going forward and whether there would be support for a further three year scheme.
6. The Panel also considered the Council's structure and the political landscape. It considered the demands made on councillors' time and how this should be recompensed.

7. The Panel then compared Burnley's Members' allowance scheme with that of neighbouring authorities.
8. The Panel concluded that whilst the current members' allowance scheme, which had been set in 2019 for a three year period, had brought Burnley's allowance up to a level comparable with that of that of neighbouring authorities, there was still a case for further small increases to ensure the level of allowances adequately recompensed members for their work and that they were not out of pocket.
9. The Panel is therefore recommending a further three year scheme from 1st April 2022 index linked to the percentage increase in employees pay under the National Joint Council (Administrative, Professional, Technical and Clerical) pay structure.
10. The Panel's full recommendations for the scheme of members' allowances 2022-25 attached at Appendix 1 to this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGET PROVISION

11. The budget for 2022/23 is £217055

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

12. Council must have regard to the IRP recommendations before it takes a decision on the setting of its members' allowance scheme.

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION

13. Member Structures Working Group

BACKGROUND PAPERS

14. None

FURTHER INFORMATION

PLEASE CONTACT:

**Imelda Grady Ext 7258
Alison McEwan Ext 7259**

ALSO: