

PROCEDURES COMMITTEE – DECISION NOTICE

2 February 2023

Present:-

Councillors I Hall (Chair), D Barnes, F Biederman, J Brazil, C Leaver and C Whitton (remote attendance)

Councillors J Hart and S Hughes (in person)

Apologies:-

Councillors J Hodgson

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Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 20 September 2022 be signed as a correct record.

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Report of the Independent Members Allowances Remuneration Panel for 2023/2024

RESOLVED

(a) that the Report of the Independent Panel be welcomed and its Members be thanked for their work;

(b) that the Committee notes the Report's conclusions and asks the County Council to accept the recommendations outlined below.

i. The basic structure of the current scheme is endorsed and retained and the changes, as outlined at Appendix 1, to support clarity in submitted claims be agreed.

ii. The Panel feels it important not to depart from its established formula of calculating the basic allowance and therefore the basic allowance increases by 4.32% to £14,025 to take effect from May 2023 and the multipliers be recalculated accordingly; This is based on the Panel's standard formula, as outlined at paragraphs 6.4.

iii. Careful consideration should be given, in the future, to the levels of allowances to ensure they keep pace with the economy generally;

iv. In light of the concerns raised over workload, the Panel will conduct a thorough review in 2023/2024 which will particularly include hours/workload and will be inviting all Councillors to respond;

- v. The overnight rate for London remain at £153.00, in line with the rates calculated by Price Waterhouse Cooper for the average daily rate (ADR) for London from 2019 (noting that the most recent figures for 2020 and 2021 are very much skewed due to the impact of the pandemic);
- vi. The current position in the number of SRA's be welcomed and that the levels be kept below the 50% threshold;
- vii. That the Panel endorse the Council's wish to have only 1 SRA per Councillor and as such removed the SRA for Chair of the Procedures Committee from the Scheme (noting that the individual holding the role of Chair already receives an SRA for that role);
- viii. That the Panel will undertake a review of the Audit Committee Chair SRA in 2023/24, including benchmarking and comparative analysis of roles across other Local Authorities;
- ix. That Members of the Council be encouraged to claim those expenses that are due to them, noting the work of the Panel in widening those meetings and events that can be claimed for;
- x. That the Panel reiterate their desire that Group Leaders take a robust approach to the performance management of their Members' and places on record their thanks for the levels of reassurance provided by Group Leaders for dealing with performance issues; and
- xi. The Panel wish to place on record their appreciation to Councillors for their continued Leadership and tireless working in their communities, especially given concerns raised in paragraph 5.2.