

MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

To: Council	Report Number: MC/23/34
From: Independent Remuneration Panel	Date of meeting: 25 January 2024
Officer: Janice Robinson Interim Monitoring Officer– Governance & Civic Office	

RECOMMENDATION FROM THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 Following the creation of named substitutes for Planning Committee in October 2023, Council is asked to consider the recommendations in the report and decide whether the role should attract a special responsibility allowance.
- 1.2 Council is also asked to agree to instruct the Monitoring Officer to make necessary amendments to the Members Scheme of Allowances following any approval of the recommendations.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Council considers whether it wishes to adopt a special responsibility allowance for the named substitutes for Planning Committee.

a) That the Special Responsibility Allowances (SRA) be set at:-

Named Substitutes	Multiplier	SRA
4	0.025	£ 163

- 2.2 That the Special Responsibility allowance for the named substitutes take effect from the 26th October 2023.
- 2.3 That the Monitoring Officer be authorised to make any necessary amendments to the Members Allowance scheme following approval of the recommendations.

3. KEY INFORMATION

- 3.1 Council appointed a pool of five people to form an Independent Remuneration Panel at the Council meeting on 21st March 2021 under the Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003.
- 3.2 The IRP carried out an extensive review of Councillors allowances in 2022 and the changes were implemented in May 2023.
- 3.3 Following the election in May 2023 full Council has taken a decision to have named substitutes on the Planning Committee.

- 3.4 The named substitutes will need to ensure that they have read all of the planning papers ahead of each Planning Committee, be able to attend site visits and be ready to substitute at short notice.
- 3.5 In recognition of the amount of paperwork and the additional work that accompanies each Planning Committee, the Independent Remuneration Panel is recommending that the named Planning Committee substitutes role should attract a remuneration of 20% of the remuneration paid to full members of the planning committee. This equates to £163 pounds per annum.

4. Financial Implications

Type of Allowance	<i>Current Costs 2023/2024</i>	<i>Projected Costs 2023/24 based on recommendations.</i>
	£	£
Special Responsibility Allowance	83,797	84,449
Total per Annum	83,797	84,449

(Projected costs are based on current placings and 2 SRA's)

- 4.1 There is provision in the budget for the proposed amendment to the Scheme of Allowances based on Council accepting the recommendations in the report.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 Under the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 ("the Regulations"), the Council is required to establish and maintain an Independent Remuneration Panel to make recommendations to it about the allowances to be paid to Members. It is important that the Council appoints an Independent Remuneration Panel and has regard to the views of the Panel before any decisions are made in respect of changes to the scheme of allowances for Members. The IRP has been fully consulted on the proposals.

6. Risk Management

- 6.1 This report is most closely linked with the Council's Corporate / Significant Business Risk No.5C *Failure to develop clear governance arrangements that enable the right decisions to be taken that are appropriate for the environment that we are operating in.* Key risks are set out below:

Risk Description	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation Measures
Inability to attract candidates to become district Councillors	Unlikely (2)	Noticeable (2)	The IRP have been asked to consider a SRA to reflect the additional work that the postholder will be required to do this will encourage a wider demographic of councillors to be able to take on additional responsibilities.
Reputational risk to the council of adopting a Scheme of Allowances which is disproportionate or without having regard to the IRP	Unlikely (2)	Noticeable (2)	The IRP have been fully consulted.
Not having a lawful scheme of allowances	Unlikely (2)	Noticeable (2)	The Council reviews its allowance scheme at least every 4 years in line with statutory requirements

7. Consultations

The IRP have been consulted on the proposals to introduce a Special responsibility Allowance for the named Substitutes for Planning Committee as detailed in 3.5 of the report.

8. Equality Analysis

8.1 There are no equality implications arising from this report.

9. Links to the Corporate Plan

9.1 By providing an appropriate remuneration the decision will support the delivery of the Council's strategic priorities by helping to ensure that our communities are democratically represented and that we have sufficient councillors to fill our decision-making structures.

10. Environmental Implications

10.1 There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

11. APPENDICES

None.

12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

12.1 Existing Mid Suffolk District Council Scheme of Member Allowances.

[MDC Members Allowance Scheme](#)

12.2 Report and Minutes to Council 23 March 2021 Appointment of An Independent Remuneration Panel.

[Report of Appointment of IRP](#)

[Minutes IRP](#)

12.3 Report and minutes to Council 27th October 2022 Report of the IRP

[IRP report to Council](#)

<https://babergmidsuffolk.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=153&MID=3419#A18419>