

# Crawley Borough Council

## Report to Governance Committee

19 September 2022

### Final Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel (Councillors' Allowances Scheme 2023/24 to 2026/27)

Report of the Chair of the Independent Remuneration Panel – LDS/190

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#### 1. Purpose

- 1.1. The Council is required to adopt a scheme of allowances that sets out the remuneration payable to its councillors.
- 1.2. The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations (as amended) require the Council to appoint an independent remuneration panel (IRP) to review the Councillors' Allowances Scheme, and to have regard to the recommendations of the IRP.
- 1.3. An IRP was formed in May 2022 and has concluded its review. Details of the considerations and subsequent recommendations are set out in the final report, attached as appendix A. The draft Councillors' Allowance Scheme for 2023/24 is attached as appendix B.

#### 2. Recommendations

The Governance Committee is requested to:

- a) Consider the final report of the Independent Remuneration Panel and the recommendations as set out in section 4 of **Appendix A**, and the draft Councillors' Allowances Scheme for 2023/24 to 2026/27 (**Appendix B**), and decide what changes, if any, it wishes to make.
- b) Recommend that the Full Council approves the Councillors' Allowances Scheme for 2023/24 to 2026/27.

#### 3. Reasons for the Recommendations

- 3.1. The IRP is an independent body that has given detailed and thoughtful deliberation to a range of information throughout the process. It is required by law that due consideration be given to the IRP's recommendations.

#### 4. Background

- 4.1 On [24 February 2021](#), the Full Council approved the Councillors' Allowances Scheme for 2021/22 and 2022/23. The IRP recommended that the Scheme be in

place for a cycle of two financial years before being subject to review by another IRP (rather than the previous four year cycle).

- 4.2 On [21 March 2022](#), the Governance Committee noted that the IRP was due to begin a review of councillors' allowances for 2023/24 onwards. The Committee requested that the IRP consider the Mayor's and Deputy Mayor's allowances as part of the review.
- 4.3 On [21 June 2022](#), the Governance Committee considered an alteration to the dates of the Councillors' Allowances Scheme to align with the upcoming municipal year, rather than the financial year, for efficiency and simplicity. It was recommended to the Full Council that the Scheme due to end on 31 March 2023 be extended to end on 26 May 2023. This was agreed by the Full Council on 20 July 2022.

## **5. Overview of the Final Report of the IRP**

- 5.1. The IRP met four times between June and August 2022. The recommendations were finalised upon deciding that no further information was required to inform considerations.
- 5.2. The final report of the IRP is attached as appendix A. The report sets out:
  - a) The membership of the IRP
  - b) Key elements of the relevant legislation
  - c) The information used to inform the IRP's recommendations
  - d) A summary of the discussions had and the key points raised at each meeting
  - e) The IRP's final recommendations.

## **6. Implications**

- 6.1. Financial: if the recommendations are agreed, the annual increase via indexation will need to be financed. The Section 151 Officer has been made aware of this recommendation.
- 6.2. Legal: the Council must have regard to the recommendations set out by the Independent Remuneration Panel as per The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 (as amended).

## **7. Background Papers**

[The Local Authorities \(Members' Allowances\) \(England\) Regulations 2003](#)

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On behalf of the members of the Independent Remuneration Panel