



Committee and Date

Council
24th February 2022

Item

Public

Members Allowances and Parental Leave for Councillors

**Responsible
Officer**

Tim Collard Interim Assistant Director, Legal and Democratic
Services

e-mail: Tim.collard@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743 258915

1. Synopsis

The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 require the Council to "make" an Allowance Scheme before the beginning of each financial year. In addition, it is recommended that a Scheme for Parental Leave for Members is approved.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1. The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 require the Council to "make" an Allowance Scheme before the beginning of each financial year.
- 2.2. The Local Government Association has published a sample Policy to account for Parental Leave for Councillors which it proposed should be adopted.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1. That the current Members' Allowance Scheme, attached at Appendix 1, be approved.
- 3.2. That the Parental Leave Policy for Members, attached at Appendix 2, be approved.

REPORT

4. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 4.1. The recommendations in this report, if approved, will have no impact on Children and Vulnerable Adults, Risk Management, Human Rights, Equalities, Community and other Consultation

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1. The approval of the Parental Leave Policy for members might result in additional costs having to be met through the payment of an additional Special Responsibility Allowance where a member in receipt of a Special Responsibility Allowance takes advantage of the scheme

6. Climate Change Appraisal

- 6.1. The proposals will have no effect on climate change

7. Additional Information

- 7.1. It is recommended that the current scheme attached at Appendix 1 is approved. Before any amendments to the Members' Allowance scheme, the authority must have regard to recommendations from the Independent Remuneration Panel, of which there are none presently.
- 7.2. The current scheme, which was originally adopted in February 2021, provides for an increase in Members Allowances each year in line with the percentage increase for Local Government Staff (at SCP 18) recommended by the National Joint Council of Local Government Services or, if different, the percentage increase awarded for staff (at SCP 18) by Shropshire Council.
- 7.3. The members of the Independent Remuneration Panel have had sight of the Parental Leave Policy for Members, attached at appendix 2 and are supportive of its adoption. In addition, the policy has been discussed with Group Leaders who are also supportive.
- 7.4. The basic suggestion is that it will be up to the individual member to determine what measures should be put in place to cover their constituency work during any parental leave. They should speak to fellow members and can contact Member Services to establish what support can be provided.

- 7.5. It should be noted that the adoption of the Policy will not affect the provision where a member will lose their seat where they fail to attend meetings for a period of more than six months unless their extended absence has been specifically approved by the Council in advance.

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)

None

Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)

Leader of the Council – Councillor Lezley Picton

Portfolio Holder for Finance and Corporate Resources – Councillor Gwilym Butler

Local Member

All Councillors

Appendices

1. Members Allowances
2. Parental Leave for Councillors