

**Council****17 July 2025**

Public



## Special Responsibility Allowances - Deputy Portfolio Holders

**Responsible Officer:**

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**Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder):**

Heather Kidd – Leader of the Council

### 1. Synopsis

Several important roles for Deputy Portfolio Holders (“DPHs”) have been identified by the new administration. A simple increase in the number of DPHs with Special Responsibility Allowances (“SRA”) would increase the SRA spend beyond previous budget projections if paid at the rate of 0.25 times the ordinary allowance - as provided for in the Members allowances Scheme in Part 6 of the Constitution. The Leader expects, however, that the appointed Deputies will accept a reduced amount from 0.25 to 0.15 of the ordinary allowance thereby delivering no increase to the budget.

### 2. Executive Summary

- 2.1. The Leader of the Council is required to appoint members of the Cabinet as Portfolio Holders and may also appoint deputies.
- 2.2. The Members Allowances Scheme in Part 6 of the Constitution, includes allowances for both Portfolio Holders and also their Deputies.

- 2.3. The Member Allowances Scheme currently notes payment of allowances for three DPHs. In total, 9 Deputies have been appointed and the purpose of this report is to approve the payment of allowances for up to 10 Deputies. It should be noted, however, that it is only proposed to pay 8 deputy allowances. The Leader expects that the appointed Deputies will accept a reduced amount of only 0.15 times the ordinary allowance and this will be required to ensure the available budget is not exceeded. To formally change the rate in the scheme from 0.25 to 0.15 would require a report of the Independent Remuneration Panel.
- 2.4. The Council's Independent Remuneration Panel is currently inquorate following the death of one of its members. It is proposed that panel members be identified for appointment by the Council to undertake a comprehensive review of the members allowances scheme, including but not limited to deputy portfolio holders.

### **3. Recommendations**

- 3.1. That Council approve the payment of allowances for up to 10 Deputy Portfolio Holders and that the Member Allowances Scheme in Part 6 of the Constitution be amended accordingly.
- 3.2. That the Monitoring Officer seeks to identify members for appointment to the Independent Remuneration Panel at a future meeting of the Council so a comprehensive review of the scheme of members allowances can be undertaken.

## **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
- 4.2. The Council is required to regularly review Members Allowances.

### **5. Financial Implications**

- 5.1. Shropshire Council continues to manage unprecedented financial demands as budgeted for within the Medium-Term Financial Strategy approved by Council on 27 February 2025 and subsequent updates. It is also addressed in our monitoring position presented to Cabinet on a monthly basis. Significant management action has and continues to be undertaken to ensure the Council's financial survival. While all reports provide the financial implications of decisions being taken, this may change as officers review the overall financial situation and make decisions aligned to financial survivability. Where non-essential spend is identified within the Council, this will be reduced. This may involve

- scaling down initiatives,
- changing the scope,

- delaying implementation, or
  - extending delivery timescales.
- 5.2. The outcome of this report could result in the budgetary projection changing and savings having to be achieved elsewhere. The expectation of the Leader that DPHs will only take 0.15 will maintain the current budgetary position as set out below, producing a small saving as compared to the overall budget. This would have affected previous budgetary projections but the most recent one takes it into account.
- 5.3. Meetings of the Independent Remuneration Panel are likely to result in expenses being paid to the members of the panel but this is not considered to be significant.
- 5.4. Changes made to the Members Allowances Scheme may result in additional expenditure or savings.

## 6. Climate Change Appraisal

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

## 7. Background

- 7.1. The current scheme for Members Allowances was approved in May 2021. It was further amended in 2022 to include a dependent carers allowance. The Council is required to review the scheme periodically. The members allowances scheme is required to be approved by the Council, having regard to the recommendations of an Independent Remuneration Panel.
- 7.2. The adopted scheme initially set the basic allowance paid to all members at £12,000. This is subject to annual increases in accordance with a motion approved by Council in May 2021 and currently stands at £14,378.98 (pay award pending). The increases were pegged to the % annual increase of staff salaries at scp 18.
- 7.3. The scheme includes provision for the payment of special responsibility allowances of for 3 Deputy Portfolio Holders of 0.25 of the basic allowance (£3,594.75). This amounts to £10,784.25.
- 7.4. 9 deputy Portfolio Holders have now been appointed. If each was to receive equivalent Special Responsibility Allowances, the total spend would be £32,352.75, an increase of £21,568.50 based on current rates before the next pay award linked increase is applied. Once the pay award is known and the relevant % is applied this figure would be higher.
- 7.5. As a result, the Leader intends that 8 of the DPHs will be paid an allowance based on 0.15 times the basic allowance from the date they were appointed on 22 May 2025. This is a current full year total of £17,254.78. The budget currently allows for 2 opposition group leaders based on 0.5 (£7,189.49 each) but currently only 1 qualifies. Taking this into account together with the current 3 deputy allowances of

0.25 (total: £10,784.25), the expected spend on 8 DPHs at 0.15 and only one opposition group leader would be £718.96 less than 3 DPHs and 2 opposition group leaders at the current rates.

- 7.6. The Councils Independent Remuneration Panel is currently inquorate following the death of one of its members. It is proposed that panel members be identified for appointment by the Council to undertake a comprehensive review of the members allowances scheme, including but not limited to deputy portfolio holders.

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

[Scheme for members allowances](#)

Minutes of Full Council May 2021 – see Agenda item 12 page 13:

<https://shropshire.gov.uk/committee-services/documents/g4259/Printed%20minutes%2020th-May-2021%2010.00%20Council.pdf?T=1>

**Local Member:** All

**Appendices**