
REPORT TO:	ANNUAL COUNCIL	AGENDA ITEM: 14
DATE OF MEETING:	20th MAY 2021	CATEGORY: DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	CHIEF EXECUTIVE	OPEN PARAGRAPH NO: N/A
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	ARDIP KAUR Ardip.Kaur@southderbyshire.gov.uk EXT. 5715	DOC:
SUBJECT:	MEMBERS ALLOWANCES SCHEME	REF:
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	

1.0 Recommendations

1.1 That Council considers amendment to the Members' Allowance Scheme, following advice received from the Chair of the Independent Remuneration Panel regarding payment of a Special Responsibility Allowance to the Leader and Deputy Leader of a second Opposition Group.

2.0 Purpose of Report

2.1 To inform Council of advice received from the Chair of the Independent Remuneration Panel regarding Special Responsibility Allowances (SRA's) to the Leader and Deputy Leader of a second Opposition Group.

3.0 Detail

3.1 Following a request from an Elected Member, advice was sought from the Chair of the Council's Independent Remuneration Panel regarding payment of SRA's to the Leader and Deputy Leader of a second Opposition Group.

3.2 SRA's are paid to a number of Members at South Derbyshire District Council in addition to the Basic Allowance that every member of the Council receives. These payments are in recognition of additional responsibilities and workload that results from being an office holder appointed by the Council.

3.3 Currently, there is no provision in the Member's Allowances Scheme for the payment of SRAs to the Leader and Deputy Leader of a second Opposition Group. In other local authorities where there is a second Opposition Group, it is practice for no payment to be made or, if it is considered appropriate, payment is based on the number of Members in the second Opposition Group relative to the numbers in the main Opposition Group

3.4 The Chair of the Independent Remuneration Panel advises, as follows.

'My advice is that if the Council decides to pay SRAs to the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Independent Group in 2021 the payments should be set at £4,625 (50% of the SRA paid to the Leader of the Main Opposition Group) and £2,315 (50% of the SRA paid to the Deputy Leader of the Main Opposition Group) respectively.'

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 The implementation of SRA's for the second Opposition Group will create an additional cost to the General Fund of £6,940 per annum. This cost is not budgeted and therefore not included in the Medium-Term Financial Plan as reported to the Finance and Management Committee in March 2021.

5.0 Corporate Implications

5.1 Any amendment would remain in compliance with the provisions of The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003.

6.0 Community Implications

6.1 None.

7.0 Background Papers

Members Allowances Scheme