

Report to: West Yorkshire Combined Authority

Date: 24 June 2021

Subject: **Members' Allowance Scheme**

Director: Angela Taylor, Director of Corporate and Commercial Services

Author: Caroline Allen, Head of Legal & Governance

Is this a key decision?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information or appendices?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, state paragraph number of Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972, Part 1:	
Are there implications for equality and diversity?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To consider and approve the West Yorkshire Combined Authority's (the Combined Authority's) Members' Allowances Scheme (the Scheme).

2. Information

Remuneration of the Mayor

- 2.1 In accordance with the West Yorkshire Combined Authority (Election of Mayor and Functions) Order 2021 (the 2021 Order), an Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) was convened in February 2021 to consider an allowance for the West Yorkshire Mayor. On 9 March 2021, the Combined Authority considered the IRP's report (available [here](#), from page 317) that recommended that the remuneration of the West Yorkshire Mayor be set at £105,000 and that it be indexed linked to the NJC index, namely the percentage annual cost of living salary increase as applied each year to staff.
- 2.2 The Combined Authority resolved that the recommendations of the IRP's report in respect of remuneration for the West Yorkshire Mayor, including indexation, be approved.

Remuneration of Scrutiny Members

- 2.3 On 9 March 2021, the Combined Authority approved recommendations to establish three thematic overview and scrutiny committees. In light of these changes to the scrutiny structure, the Combined Authority convened an IRP to reassess the level of allowances paid to members of these committees, and the Chairs and any Deputy Chairs of the committees.
- 2.4 The IRP's report was considered by the Combined Authority on 22 April 2021 (available [here](#), beginning at page 187). The recommendations of the IRP were that:
- The ordinary members appointed to the Combined Authority's overview and scrutiny committees be paid a Co-optees' Allowance of £648.
 - The Deputy Chairs appointed be paid a Co-optees' Allowance of £1,296.
 - The Chairs be paid a Co-optees' Allowance of £7,341.
 - No indexation is put in place for the recommended Co-optees' Allowances paid to the Co-opted Members appointed to the overview and scrutiny committees.
 - The recommended Co-optees' Allowances be paid from the date of the Combined Authority's Annual Meeting or at such later date as the overview and scrutiny committees are appointed.
- 2.5 The Combined Authority resolved that the recommendations of the IRP be approved, to be of effect from the appointment of the committees.
- 2.6 The Head of Legal and Governance Services has now reviewed the Combined Authority's allowances scheme to reflect the resolutions of the Combined Authority detailed above, and generally. As part of the review, allowances schemes adopted by the Constituent Councils have been reviewed.
- 2.7 In terms of the chairing arrangements for Transport Committee, as set out in the item on committee arrangements earlier in this agenda, it is proposed that the portfolio lead will chair this for consistency with the other thematic committees. In common with the other Chairs for the thematic committees, as the portfolio lead/Chair is a Combined Authority Member, no allowance will be paid for this position. As set out in the committee arrangements item, given the significant pace of change, a Lead Member, Public Transport will be appointed who will also discharge the role of Deputy Chair, and supported by a Lead Member, Active Travel and amendments are proposed to the allowances scheme accordingly.
- 2.8 The proposed Scheme is attached at Appendix 1, with the principal amendments highlighted.
- 2.9 In addition to the amendments to reflect the Combined Authority's resolutions in respect of the remuneration for the Mayor and overview and scrutiny committees, and in respect of the new positions of Lead Member Public

Transport and Lead Member Active Travel for Transport Committee, some minor amendments are proposed for clarification to the Scheme.

- 2.10 The power to determine and provide an allowance for the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime rests with the Mayor, and this allowance is not therefore part of the Combined Authority's Scheme.

3. Tackling the Climate Emergency Implications

- 3.1 There are no tackling the climate emergency implications directly arising from this report.

4. Inclusive Growth Implications

- 4.1 There are no inclusive growth implications directly arising from this report.

5. Equality and Diversity Implications

- 5.1 There are no equality and diversity implications directly arising from this report.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 The total amount payable in any municipal year in respect of allowances and expenses varies according to the number of members, and also claims made. The total payable for this municipal year will increase given the new allowance for the Mayor, and revised allowances in respect of the expanded overview and scrutiny arrangements. Provision was made for this in setting the budget for 2021/22.

7. Legal Implications

- 7.1 The 2014 Order provides that no allowances, except in relation to travelling and subsistence, can be paid to the Members of the Combined Authority, except for the Mayor and Deputy Mayor (in specified circumstances).
- 7.2 Remuneration may only be paid to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor following consideration of a report by the IRP; the allowance paid by the Combined Authority may not exceed the recommendation of the IRP.
- 7.3 With the exception of the remuneration for the Mayor or Deputy Mayor, the Combined Authority has no statutory duty to consider recommendations of an IRP, although the Combined Authority's practice is to seek IRP recommendations where practicable.

8. Staffing Implications

- 8.1 There are no staffing implications directly arising from this report.

9. External Consultees

- 9.1 The Combined Authority has considered the findings of the IRP in relation to the allowances to be paid.

10. Recommendations

- 10.1 That the Combined Authority adopts the Members' Allowances Scheme attached as Appendix 1 to this report, for the municipal year 2021 – 2022.

11. Background Documents

There are no background documents referenced in this report.

12. Appendices

Appendix 1 – West Yorkshire Combined Authority Members' Allowances Scheme.