

Report to: West Yorkshire Combined Authority

Date: 23 June 2022

Subject: **Members' Allowance Scheme**

Director: Angela Taylor, Director, Corporate and Commercial Services

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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

2.1 The Head of Legal and Governance Services has reviewed the Combined Authority's Members' Allowances Scheme.

2.2 The only amendments proposed to the Scheme relate to:

- the decision of the Combined Authority at its meeting on 17 March 2022 to revise the allowances for Transport Committee members from the date of the Annual Meeting following a recommendation made by the Independent Remuneration Panel;
- a proposal to introduce indexation to members allowances;
- clarification added as to the timing of the annual increase in relation to the Mayoral allowance.

The level of expenses set out in the Scheme in respect of childcare and dependants is to be reviewed and any amendments required to the Scheme will be approved by the Head of Legal and Governance Services.

- 2.3 At its meeting on 17 March 2022, the Combined Authority approved changes to the future role, membership and terms of reference of the Transport Committee. In doing so, it had regard to a report and recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) in relation to the payment of allowances to members of the Transport Committee and endorsed the recommendation of the level of remuneration, for qualifying Transport Members, to be of effect following the Annual Meeting for the municipal year 2022/23. The Scheme has been updated accordingly, and is attached as **Appendix 1**.
- 2.4 The IRP, as part of that report also noted that the Mayoral remuneration is index linked and recommended that the Authority “considers applying indexation in future years but may wish to do so as part of a wider application of all co-optees remuneration”. This proposal was not considered at the March meeting but is considered timely to review as part of agreeing the Scheme. This report proposes that, with effect from October 2023, where allowances are paid to co-optees that an annual increase is introduced consistent with the approach taken to the Mayoral Allowance. From that date, this would relate to members of the Transport Committee and the Overview and Scrutiny Committees. The draft Scheme attached incorporates suggested wording at paragraph 4.
- 2.5 A point of clarification has also been added into the Scheme at paragraph 3 to explicitly link the annual increase in the Mayor’s allowance to the date of appointment.
- 2.6 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.

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).

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 2022 – 2023 as amended including the revisions highlighted in yellow at paragraphs 3 and 4 of the Scheme.

11 Background Documents

- 11.1 None

12. Appendices

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