

Report to: West Yorkshire Combined Authority

Date: 22 June 2023

Subject: **Members' Allowance Scheme**

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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 amendments proposed to the Scheme are as follows:

Integration of the LEP and Combined Authority's Allowances Scheme

Following the LEP integration, to ensure consistency and clarity, the LEP Remuneration and Expenses Scheme has been integrated into the Combined Authority's Members' Allowances Scheme.

Childcare and Dependents Expenses

A review has been undertaken of the level of expenses paid in relation to childcare and dependents. As an inclusive organisation, we are keen to remove any barriers preventing members from contributing to the democratic process and accordingly a change to the level of expenses is proposed to bring the hourly childcare rate in line with the UK Living Wage as determined

by the Living Wage Foundation. In real terms this will see the hourly rate increase from £7.65 per hour to £10.90 per hour.

The rate for other dependents will be claimable at the hourly rate charged by the Adult Services department for domiciliary home care.

The changes are reflected in paragraph 17, Schedule D of the Scheme.

Independent Members of the Governance and Audit Committee - Remuneration

In line with legal requirements, the Combined Authority has previously appointed two independent members to its statutory audit committee. To date, those members have been unremunerated. One of the independent members has the additional responsibilities of chairing the Committee. In recognition of the valuable contribution of those members to the work of the Committee, the time commitment to attend meetings, reading and researching papers and the responsibility of chairing the Committee, it is proposed that the independent members should be remunerated. Benchmarking comparisons have been made against what other combined authorities pay their independent audit members and the Police Joint Audit & Ethics Committees. It is recommended that remuneration should be set at:

Chair: £1,800 per annum (at a rate of £300 per day for 6 days work)

Member: £1,000 per annum (at a rate of £250 per day for 4 days work)

Schedule A of the Scheme has been amended to reflect this.

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 The Combined Authority is an inclusive organisation committed to ensuring equal opportunities for all. The increase in the level of allowance for carers is a positive step in ensuring inclusivity for members with caring responsibilities.

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 entitled to remuneration, and also to any expense claims made.

6.2 The budget implications of remunerating the two independent members of the Governance and Audit Committee is £2,800 per annum.

7. Legal Implications

- 7.2 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

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

9. External Consultees

- 9.1 In arriving at the proposed level of remuneration for carers, the Combined Authority have consulted with partner constituent councils and other combined authorities.
- 9.2 In arriving at the proposed level of remuneration for the independent members of Governance and Audit Committee, the Combined Authority have consulted with other combined authorities, the Police Joint Audit Committee and the LGA.

10. Recommendations

- 10.1 That the Combined Authority adopts the Members' Allowances Scheme attached as **Appendix 1** to this report, for the municipal year 2023/2024 as amended to reflect those matters set out at paragraph 2.2 above.

11. Background Documents

- 11.1 None

12. Appendices

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