

Council Issues

Part 1: Member Allowances – Annual Indexation

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Members are asked to update the constitution to reflect the new rates for the Member Allowances which apply automatically following the annual adjustment in line with the index agreed by the Council when it adopted the new scheme of allowances in July 2022. The index chosen by council is the Office of National Statistics Public Sector Pay index – this gives a percentage figure of 6.1% and avoids the difficulties that have been experienced by authorities who linked to the national local government pay award. We can rely on this index for a period of four years from 2022. Some Members choose to forgo any part of the allowance.
- 1.2 The basic allowance will be increased from £12,941 pa to £13,730 pa.
- 1.3 The special responsibility allowances will be as follows:

Role	New allowance (£)
Leader	61,787
Deputy Leader	49,429
Cabinet Member	41,397
Deputy to Cabinet Member	15,447
Scrutiny Board Chairman	18,536
Committee Chairman	15,447
Leader of Largest Opposition Group	18,536
Smaller Opposition Group Leaders	6,179
Chairman of the Council	24,715
Vice-Chairman of the Council	12,357

2. Recommendations:

- 2.1 To note the new rates for Member Allowances.
- 2.1 Amend appendix 2 of part 26 of the Constitution (Member Allowances Scheme) to reflect the new rates for member Allowances as set out in the appendix to this report.
- 2.3 Amend Paragraph 8.1.4 Essex Pension Fund Strategy Board – **Remuneration**, as follows:

The agreed allowance to be paid is £17.95 per hour to include reasonable preparation time. Therefore it is considered that the following can be claimed:

- PSB attendance - up to four hours which includes preparation time = £71.80 per meeting
- ISC attendance - up to four hours which includes preparation time = £71.80 per meeting
- ISC Strategic meeting attendance - up to six hours which includes preparation time = £107.70 per meeting
- Extra activities = £17.95 per hour which includes:
 - attendance at internal training events hosted by Essex Pension Fund;
 - attendance at and preparation for Task and Finish Groups; and
 - attendance at and preparation for the Appointments Panel, as part of the Essex Pension Fund Advisory Board (PAB) appointments process.

2.4. Amend paragraph 8.1.6 of the constitution (terms of reference of the Essex Pension Fund Advisory Board) – as follows:

10. Remuneration and Expenses

(A) Subject to (B) below, an allowance may be made to Scheme Member representatives for attending meetings relating to Board business at a rate of £17.95 per hour, in line with the PSB Co-optee allowance at Appendix 2.

This allowance includes reasonable preparation time. Therefore it is considered that the following can be claimed:

- PAB attendance - up to four hours which includes preparation time = £71.80 per meeting
- Extra activities = £17.95 per hour which includes:
 - attendance at internal training events hosted by EPF; and
 - attendance at and preparation for Task and Finish Groups.

This allowance does not include time spent on external training events or observing at PSB or ISC meetings.

Part 2: Revised terms of reference for the Corporate Policy and Scrutiny Committee

1. Introduction

- 2.1 Following an all-party conversation it was agreed that much of the work that the informal Corporate Governance Steering Board has undertaken is duplicated or could be dealt with elsewhere just as effectively. The one area which is only discussed by the Board is some parts of the corporate governance performance reports. It is therefore proposed that these will in future be considered in public by the Corporate Policy and Scrutiny Committee. To facilitate this latter change Council is asked to formalise this by a slight expansion of the terms of reference of the Corporate Policy and Scrutiny Committee.

2. Recommendation:

- 2.1 Amend the terms of reference of the Corporate Policy and Scrutiny Committee as set out in paragraph 9.5.1 of the Constitution to insert a bullet point at the end to read:

‘considering the Council’s governance arrangements and the management of its performance including reports about that performance’.

Part 3: Dates of future Council meetings

- 1.1 In October 2023 it was agreed that future meetings of Council would be held on Tuesday 9 July 2024, Tuesday 15 October 2024, Tuesday 10 December 2024 and Thursday 13 February 2025.
- 1.2 It is necessary to schedule further forthcoming Council meetings. The proposed dates are Tuesday 20 May 2025, Tuesday 15 July 2025, Tuesday 14 October 2025 and Tuesday 9 December 2025.

2. Recommendation:

- 2.1 That the dates of Council meetings scheduled for Tuesday 9 July 2024, Tuesday 15 October 2024, Tuesday 10 December 2024 and Thursday 13 February 2025 remain unchanged.
- 2.2 That future Council meetings be scheduled on Tuesday 20 May 2025, Tuesday 15 July 2025, Tuesday 14 October 2025 and Tuesday 9 December 2025.

Members Allowances Scheme

Basic Allowance

£13,730 per annum

Special Responsibility Allowances

Postholder	Rate	Amount
Basic Allowance (75)	-	£13,730
Leader	450% of basic allowance	£61,787
	As a % of the Leader's allowance	
Deputy Leader	80%	£49,429
Cabinet Member (8)	67%	£41,397
Deputy to Cabinet Member (11)	25%	£15,447
Scrutiny Board Chairman	30%	£18,536
Committee Chairman (8)	25%	£15,447
Leader of the largest opposition group	30%	£18,536
(The SRA for the leader of the main opposition group will be split equally between two or more leaders of opposition groups for the duration of any period of time in which they have an equality of members in the group.)		
Smaller opposition group leaders (for groups which include at least 5% of Members in their Group)	10%	£6,179
Chairman of the Council	40%	£24,715
Vice-Chairman of the Council	20%	£12,357
Co-opted members of Pension Strategy Board (in accordance with paragraph 26.8)		£17.95 per hour to include reasonable preparation time.