

## Agenda item 15

# Council Issues

### 1. Minor changes to the constitution

- 1.1 A minor change to resolve an anomaly in paragraph 16.11.1 of the Constitution which says that executive statements should be notified on the Friday before the meeting, which means that advanced notice is required between one and six days before the meeting, depending on the day of the week upon which the meeting is held. It's proposed to change it so that two working days' notice is given.

### 2. Recommendation:

- 2.1 Amend paragraph 16.11.1 (iv) of the constitution to read as follows:

'(iv) The subject of any proposed statement and the identity of the person who will be making it should be notified to the Head of Democracy and Transparency by 5pm two working days prior to the Council meeting. The Head of Democracy and Transparency will send an e-mail notification to all Members of the Council.'

### 3. Member Allowances – Annual Indexation

- 3.1 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 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.
- 3.2 The basic allowance will be increased from £12,292 pa to £12,941pa.
- 3.3 The special responsibility allowances will be as follows:

	New (£)
Leader	58,235
Deputy Leader	46,582
Cabinet Member	39,017

Deputy to Cabinet Member	14,559
Scrutiny Board Chairman	17,470
Committee Chairman	14,559
Leader of Largest Opposition Group	17,470
Smaller Opposition Group Leaders	5,823
Chairman of the Council	23,294
Vice-Chairman of the Council	11,647

#### **4. Recommendation:**

- 4.1 To note the new rates for Member Allowances.
- 4.2 Amend Appendix 2 – Member Allowances Scheme, of the Constitution to reflect the new rates for member Allowances as follows:

### **Members Allowances Scheme**

#### **Basic Allowance**

£12,941 per annum

#### **Special Responsibility Allowances**

Postholder	Rate	Amount
Basic Allowance (75)	-	£12,941
Leader	450% of basic allowance	£58,235
	As a % of the Leader's allowance	
Deputy Leader	80%	£46,582
Cabinet Member (8)	67%	£39,017
Deputy to Cabinet Member (11)	25%	£14,559
Scrutiny Board Chairman	30%	£17,470
Committee Chairman (8)	25%	£14,559
Leader of the largest opposition group	30%	£17,470
(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%	£5,823
Chairman of the Council	40%	£23,294
Vice-Chairman of the Council	20%	£11,647
Co-opted members of Pension Strategy Board (in accordance with paragraph 26.8)		£16.92 per hour to include reasonable preparation time.

4.3 Amend Paragraph 8.1.4 Essex Pension Fund Strategy Board – **Remuneration**, as follows:

The agreed allowance to be paid is £16.92 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 = £67.68 per meeting
- ISC attendance - up to four hours which includes preparation time = £67.68 per meeting
- ISC Strategic meeting attendance - up to six hours which includes preparation time = £101.52 per meeting
- Extra activities = £16.92 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.

4.4 Amend Paragraph 8.1.6 The Essex Pension Fund Advisory Board – **10. Remuneration and Expenses**, 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 £16.92 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 = £67.68 per meeting
- Extra activities = £16.92 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.