

Review of Members' Allowances – Summary of Recommendations

RECOMMENDATION 1: That a 4.04% uplift be applied to members' allowances, backdated to 1st April, 2022, providing a Basic Allowance of £6,465.18 for 2022/23.

RECOMMENDATION 2: That the Council endorses this broader understanding of the purpose of the Basic Allowance (set out in paragraph 19 of the report).

RECOMMENDATION 3: That the Basic Allowance for 2023/24 be set at £6,465.18 (on the assumption that the Council accepts our recommendation 1 above regarding the 2022/23 uplift) or £6,214.13 (if the Panel's recommendation 1 above is not accepted).

RECOMMENDATION 4: That the Basic Allowance for 2023/24 and beyond continue to be indexed to the annual staff pay award and that, should a flat rate pay award be made again, assuming a similar reference is made to a percentage increase for staff allowances, that percentage be the appropriate uplift applied in relevant years.

RECOMMENDATION 5: That the Council note the intention of the Panel to continue to review the level of Basic Allowance over the coming year and if appropriate to formulate proposals for the Council to consider, for adoption after the May 2024 elections.

RECOMMENDATION 6: That the principle that a member may only claim one SRA be continued.

RECOMMENDATION 7: That all SRAs continue to be calculated as a multiplier of the Basic Allowance.

RECOMMENDATION 8: That the special responsibility allowance for the Leader of the Council be set at £21,749.46 (£22,628.13) i.e. unchanged at 3.5 x Basic Allowance, effective from 1st April, 2023.

RECOMMENDATION 9: That the special responsibility allowance for the Deputy Leader of the Council be set at £13,981.79 (£14,546.66) i.e. unchanged at 2.25 x the Basic Allowance, effective from 1st April, 2023.

RECOMMENDATION 10: That the special responsibility allowance for Cabinet Members be set at £10,874.73 (£11,314.07) i.e. unchanged at 1.75 x the Basic Allowance, effective from 1st April, 2023.

RECOMMENDATION 11: That the special responsibility allowance for the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be increased to £4,971.30 (£5,172.14) , equal to that of the Chair of Planning Committee, i.e. 0.8 x the Basic Allowance, effective from 1st April, 2023.

RECOMMENDATION 12: That no special responsibility allowance be made to the Deputy Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at this time but that the Council notes the intention of the Panel to keep this matter under review in the light of operational experience.

RECOMMENDATION 13: That the special responsibility allowance for the Chair of the Planning Committee be set at £4,971.30 (£5,172.14) i.e. unchanged at 0.8 x the Basic Allowance, effective from 1st April , 2023.

RECOMMENDATION 14: That the special responsibility allowance for the Deputy Chair of the Planning Committee be set at £1,242.83 (£1,293.04) i.e. unchanged at 0.2 x the Basic Allowance, effective from 1st April, 2023.

RECOMMENDATION 15: That the special responsibility allowance for the Chairs of the Audit and Governance and Licensing and Enforcement Committees be set at £3,107.07 (£3,232.59) i.e. unchanged at 0.5 x the Basic Allowance, effective from 1st April, 2023.

RECOMMENDATION 16: That the special responsibility allowance for the position of Chair of the General Purposes Committee be deleted from the Scheme with effect from 1st April, 2023.

RECOMMENDATION 17: That the special responsibility allowance for Minority Group Leaders be set at £6,214.13 (£6,465.18) i.e. unchanged at 1 x the Basic Allowance, effective from 1st April, 2023;

RECOMMENDATION 18: That the special responsibility allowance for Minority Deputy Group Leaders be set at £1,553.53 (£1,616.30) i.e. unchanged at 0.25 x the Basic Allowance, effective from 1st April, 2023;

RECOMMENDATION 19: Council be invited to note the intention of the Panel to bring forward a proposal on this matter for the Council to consider.

RECOMMENDATION 20: That the special responsibility allowances for the Mayor and Sheriff/Deputy Mayor be set respectively at £3,728.48 (£3,879.11) i.e. unchanged at 0.6 x the Basic Allowance, and £1,242.83 (£1,293.04) i.e. unchanged at 0.2 x the Basic Allowance, effective from 1st April, 2023.

RECOMMENDATION 21: That the Council be invited to comment to the Panel on how it sees the role of member champions evolving in the future within Gloucester City Council.

RECOMMENDATION 22: The Council be urged to consider establishing a clear structural and constitutional framework (along the lines agreed with Stroud District Council) within which member champions can operate, in order to maximise their effectiveness.

RECOMMENDATION 23: That no change be made at the present time to the travel and subsistence provisions of the Scheme.

RECOMMENDATION 24: That no change be made at the present time to the dependent care provisions of the Scheme, and that all councillors be urged to recognise their entitlement to such expenses.

RECOMMENDATION 25. That section (a) of the Approved Duties be amended to read as follows: *"Attendance, by right of membership or express invitation or as an observer with a legitimate interest, at meetings of the Council, Cabinet, Committees, Sub Committees, Working Groups, Panels and Task and Finish Groups."*