

Independent Remuneration Panel: Addendum

Meeting held on 4 May 2021 to consider the role of Local Area Committee Chair

The Independent Remuneration Panel subsequently met on 4 May 2021 to consider and make recommendations in relation to the Special Responsibility Allowance for the new role of Local Area Committee Chair.

At its meeting on 18 March 2021, the Council resolved to establish seven Local Area Committees in May 2021. Approval was given to the draft Area Committee Terms of Reference and Area Committee Procedure Rules. As set out in the draft procedure rules, each Committee will appoint a Chair and Deputy Chair for the year from its membership comprising the Ward Councillors of that Committee.

The Panel noted that, following the establishment of the Local Area Committees and the role of Local Area Committee Chairs, the role of Local Area Partnership Chair would be removed from the Members' Allowances Scheme and replaced with the Local Area Committee Chair.

The Panel examined information relating to the establishment of Local Area Committees, including the Cabinet Report of 17 March 2021 *Empowering communities: shifting power from the Town Hall to communities in every part of Sheffield*, which also included Terms of reference and Procedure Rules for the Committees.

The Panel also examined the detail of the role profile for the Local Area Committee Chair, which set out the roles and responsibilities of the role and described the relevant knowledge and skills. It was also able to compare the newly established role profile with that of the former Local Area Partnership Chair.

Recommendations

Having regard to the consideration of all the information above, the Panel has made recommendations in respect of the Special Responsibility Allowance for the Local Area Committee Chairs from May 2021, as follows:

As regards the Special Responsibility Allowance for the Chairs of Local Area Committees, the Panel recognise that it is envisaged that the Chairs will undertake a significant amount of work and duties and perform an enhanced role, such as:

- representing the Local Area Committee
- chairing Local Area Committee Meetings and other meetings
- supporting the decision making process
- supporting the enhanced role of Ward Councillors
- establishment and future development of the Local Area Committee
- preparation, agreement, implementation, and monitoring of the Local Area Committee Plan
- Community involvement
- Influencing service delivery and devolved decision making.

The Panel also recognise that, although the Local Area Committees will be granted delegated powers and responsibilities, they will initially be at a relatively early stage in their development. It is envisaged that initially their role may chiefly be consultative and there would be a rolling programme of devolution over approximately 12 to 18 months. It is therefore suggested that a relatively cautious approach to the determination of the Special Responsibility Allowance is adopted in the first instance. Accordingly, it is recommended that the role of Area Committee Chair is initially placed at Band C (£5,688.55 per annum) in the Schedule of Special Responsibility Allowances in the Members' Allowances Scheme.

This would be subject to a further review by the Panel within 12 months and with the benefit of the Area Committees having been operational for a period of time. This will enable the Panel to further examine the development of the Committees and the development of the role of Area Committee Chairs.

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