

Westmorland and Furness Shadow Authority Meeting

17 May 2022

Members' Allowances and Appointment of Independent Remuneration Panel

(Addendum Report)

Report from: Linda Fisher, Technical Lead, Legal and Democratic Workstream and Monitoring Officer (South Lakeland District Council)

Report Author: Lisa Tremble, Monitoring Officer (Eden District Council)

Wards: All

Key Decision: N

1.0 Purpose/Summary of report

1.1 This report is an addendum to the report on the Council agenda with regards to the adoption of the Members' Allowance Scheme and the appointment of an Independent Persons Panel. This report provides a revised set of recommendations which have been put forward by the Westmorland and Furness Joint Committee for Members to consider.

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 It is recommended that the Shadow Authority for Westmorland and Furness:

- 1. Note the attached report;**
- 2. Consider the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel and the Scheme of Member Allowances which it has proposed (Appendix 1) to be adopted for the shadow year with effect from the 9 May 2022**
- 3. Note that in the light of the limited time that the Independent Remuneration Panel had to collect evidence for the scheme, the lack of opportunity for member engagement and given the significant disparity with comparator councils, the Joint Committee cannot recommend to the Westmorland and Furness Shadow Authority to adopt, in its entirety, the proposed Scheme at its inaugural meeting for the shadow year.**

4. **Recommend that the Shadow Authority immediately authorises the Interim Monitoring Officer advertises the recruitment of an Independent Remuneration Panel of 5 members for the Council to consider a scheme of members' allowances to be adopted by Westmorland and Furness Council.**
5. **As an interim measure, that the Shadow Authority adopts the scheme to pay the basic allowance as proposed, subject to immediate review. Due to the points noted in (3) above, the scheme for payment of all Special Responsibility Allowances are set at zero, pending the immediate review. Allowances will be adjusted and back-dated as soon as the Westmorland and Furness Independent Remuneration Panel (as proposed in 4) has reported and recommendations adopted.**

3.0 Background and Proposals

- 3.1 This report is an addendum to the report issued with the agenda and provides some amended and additional recommendations. These amendments reflect changes proposed following discussions and considerations of the Joint Committee held on 10 May 2022.
- 3.2 The Joint Committee considered that the Independent Remuneration Panel had limited time to collect evidence for the scheme and a lack of opportunity for member engagement. Additionally Members felt that there was significant disparity with comparator councils. Consequently the Joint Committee could not recommend to the Westmorland and Furness Shadow Authority to adopt, in its entirety, the proposed Scheme at its inaugural meeting for the shadow year and therefore suggested the amended recommendations outlined above.

4.0 Consultation

- 4.1 The amendments to the recommendation as set out in this addendum have been proposed and approved by the Westmorland and Furness Joint Committee.

5.0 Alternative Options

- 5.1 The Shadow Authority must adopt a Member Allowance Scheme as required by the Cumbria (Structural Changes Order) 2022.

6.0 Implications and risks

- 6.1 The implications and risks are as set out in the main cover report.

Contact Officers

Linda Fisher, Technical Lead Legal and Democratic Workstream and
Monitoring Officer for South Lakeland District Council