

Report to Council

Portfolio Holder: Review of Special Responsibility Allowances for Members appointed to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Report Author: Paul Entwistle, Director of Legal Services

Date: 15 March 2023

Summary

To report the recommendations of the GM Independent Remuneration Panel in relation to the remuneration of the Members of the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

Recommendation(s)

1. Note the recommendations of the report of the GM Independent Remuneration Panel. (Appendix 1).
2. Note that the Levelling up Bill is still proceeding through parliament and therefore the GMCA does not yet have legislative power to pay allowances directly to the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee members.
3. That Oldham Council (along with GM Districts) pay allowances to their appointees to the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee in the interim.
4. The allowance payments will be reimbursed from GMCA.
5. Payments of SRAs for Members of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee are set as recommended in the report (Appendix 1) and are backdated to 24th June 2022 when the new scrutiny arrangements were put in place with increases outlined in paragraph 3 (e) of this report.
6. The Council's Member Allowances Scheme is adjusted to take account of the interim arrangements.

1. Background

- 1.1 The Greater Manchester Combined Authority Order 2011, as amended by the GMCA (Amendment) Order 2015 and the GMCA (Functions and Amendment) Order 2017 provides for the appointment of a GMCA Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP). At their meeting on 24 February 2017 the GMCA agreed to establish in accordance with relevant statutory provisions, its own Independent Remuneration Panel.
- 1.2 Following consideration of the Independent Review of the GMCA Scrutiny function the GMCA agreed to re-convene the IRP to consider a special responsibility allowance (SRA) for members and substitutes of the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

2. INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PROCESS

- 2.1 The Independent Remuneration Panel met in July 2022 to begin the process of reviewing the remuneration for the Members of the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee. Their final report was completed in November 2022 but was not considered immediately by the GMCA as it was anticipated that the reference to the payment of allowances to Scrutiny Committee members was imminently to become law.
- 2.2 The Panel formally convened to conduct the review and it interviewed members of Scrutiny, members the GMCA and relevant officers. In addition, all Scrutiny members were sent a short questionnaire and for those who were unable to meet with the Panel were given the opportunity to make a written submission.
- 2.3 The Council's Independent Remuneration Panel have considered the report and satisfied with the process followed and the recommendation.

3. REMUNERATION PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations of the GMCA's Independent Remuneration Panel are –

- a) The IRP recommends that the Members of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee are paid an annual SRA of £3,228.
- b) The IRP recommends that the Substitute Members of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee are paid an SRA consisting of two components:
- A Standing SRA of £536 per year
 - A Variable SRA of £134.52 for every meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and task and finish group attended
- c) The IRP recommends that the SRA for the Chair of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee should be £9,684.

d) The IRP recommends that if the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee appoint a Vice Chair then that post holder should receive an SRA of £4,035.

e) The IRP recommends that the SRAs recommended for the Members, Substitutes, Chair and if so appointed a Vice Chair of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee are also annually indexed in accordance with the annual percentage cost of living increase that is applied each year as set by the National Joint Council for Local Government Staff, with the indexation applied at the same time it is applied to the remuneration of the GMCA Elected Mayor and Co-opted Members. (The Council's current Members scheme applies the percentage increase for officers at SCP 49 and it is recommended that this is applied for consistency.)

f) The Panel further recommends that the recommended SRAs for Members and Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee are backdated to 24th June 2022 or any date thereafter than the GMCA deems is appropriate.

2 Recommendations

2.1 Council are requested to consider the report.

3 Financial Implications

3.1 None

4 Legal Services Comments

4.1 The legal comments are contained within the report and recommendations.

5 Human Resources Comments

5.1 None

6 Risk Assessments

6.1 N/A

7 IT Implications

7.1 N/A

8 Property Implications

8.1 None

9 Procurement Implications

9.1 N/A

10 Environmental and Health & Safety Implications

10.1 N/A

11 Equality, community cohesion and crime implications

11.1 N/A

12 Equality Impact Assessment Completed?

12.1 N/A

13 Key Decision

13.1 No

14 Key Decision Reference

14.1 N/A

15 Background Papers

15.1 None

16 Appendices

Appendix 1 – Review of Special Responsibility Allowances Report of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority Independent Remuneration panel.