



Subject:	Revision of the Council's Scheme of Allowances
Date:	19 th October, 2018
Reporting Officer:	Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager
Contact Officer:	As Above

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To consider an amendment to the Council's Scheme of Allowances to provide for the removal of allowances and support services to a Member who is disqualified, suspended or partially suspended following an adjudication by the Local Government Commissioner for Standards in relation to a breach of the Northern Ireland Local Government Code of Conduct for Councillors.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	It is recommended that the Committee: 1. Approve the amendment to the Scheme of Allowances as set out in the report;

3.0	Main report
3.1	<p data-bbox="272 255 421 286"><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p data-bbox="165 322 1471 421">3.1.1 The Council is required, under the Local Government (Payments to Councillors) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012, to publish a Scheme of Allowances, which sets out the allowances, and support services that apply to a Councillor.</p> <p data-bbox="165 456 1471 622">3.1.2 The Council’s current Scheme does not cover what should happen if a Councillor is disqualified, suspended or partially suspended following an adjudication by the Local Government Commissioner for Standards in relation to a breach of the Northern Ireland Local Government Code of Conduct for Councillors. It is recommended that the Scheme should be amended to provide for this.</p> <p data-bbox="165 658 1251 689">3.1.3 The following amendment is recommended for approval by the Committee:</p> <p data-bbox="165 725 1222 757">3.1.4 <u>“Disqualification, Suspension or Partial Suspension of a Councillor</u></p> <p data-bbox="272 792 1471 958"><i>The Local Government Commissioner for Standards may impose sanctions on a Councillor who is found to have breached the Northern Ireland Code of Conduct for Councillors. Such sanction may be imposed at the conclusion of the Commissioner’s adjudication process of the alleged breach or at the conclusion of an interim adjudication by the Commissioner.</i></p> <p data-bbox="272 994 1471 1093"><i>For the purpose of this Scheme of Allowances, the following action will be taken upon receipt by the Chief Executive of a decision by the Commissioner which results in the disqualification or the suspension or the partial suspension of a Councillor.</i></p> <p data-bbox="272 1128 497 1160"><u>Disqualification</u></p> <p data-bbox="272 1196 1471 1294"><i>If a Councillor is disqualified, then the payment of all allowances and the provision of all support services outlined in this Scheme will cease with immediate effect from the date of disqualification.</i></p> <p data-bbox="272 1330 443 1361"><u>Suspension</u></p> <p data-bbox="272 1397 1471 1496"><i>If a Councillor is wholly suspended for a period of time, then the payment of all allowances and the provision of all support services outlined in this Scheme will cease with immediate effect from the date of suspension.</i></p> <p data-bbox="272 1532 542 1563"><u>Partial Suspension</u></p> <p data-bbox="272 1599 1471 1765"><i>If a Councillor is partially suspended for a period of time, then the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee shall decide, on a case by case basis, what impact that partial suspension shall have upon the Councillor’s right to receive any allowances and support services from the date of that partial suspension having regard to the nature of the partial suspension.”</i></p> <p data-bbox="272 1800 536 1832"><u>Interim Adjudication</u></p> <p data-bbox="272 1868 1471 1935">The payment of allowances and any other entitlements will continue until final adjudication subject to adjustments required to reflect the nature of any partial suspension.</p>

3.2	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u>
3.2.1	There would not be any adverse impact on the Council's budgets if the recommendation is approved. Any individual Councillor who is disqualified, suspended or partially suspended will be affected adversely.
3.3	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.3.1	There are not any Good Relations, Equality or Rural Needs issues associate with this report.