



<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Revisions to Scheme of Allowances</b>
<b>Date:</b>	15th April, 2022
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John Walsh, Chief Executive
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	To consider amendments to the Council's Scheme of Allowances to increase the rate of Basic Allowance and the maximum rate of Special Responsibility Allowance.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	<p>The Committee is recommended to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. consider whether it wishes to apply the increase in the Basic Allowance from £15,486 per annum to £15,757, with effect from 1st April, 2021, and</li><li>2. consider whether it wishes to increase the total maximum Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA) from the current £117,774 per annum to £119,835 as set out in Appendix 2, with effect from 1st April, 2021.</li></ol>

<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1.1	The Department for Communities issued a circular, LG 10/2022, which set out revised maximum limits for basic and special responsibility allowances with effect from 1st April, 2021.
3.1.2	The Committee, at its meeting in March 2022, agreed to apply the increase in the basic allowance from £15,057 per annum to the current £15,486. Local Government Circular LG 10/2022, dated 28th March, 2022, has increased the maximum basic allowance, which Councils may pay to Members, to £15,757 with effect from 1st April, 2021.
3.1.3	<p>The Committee is also requested to consider whether to apply the increase to the Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA) budget, with effect from 1st April, 2021. For a number of years, the Council has agreed a split in the special responsibility allowance budget so as to pay both the Chairpersons and the Deputy Chairpersons of the Standing Committees and the Party Officers (Party Leader, Deputy Party Leader and Party Secretary – depending upon Party size). The current division of SRAs is set out in Appendix 1. If the increase in the overall budget is increased, a suggested split is set out in Appendix 2.</p> <p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p>
3.1.4	<p>The increase to the maximum rates of each of the allowances has already been considered and can be met through existing budgets.</p> <p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p>
3.1.5	There are not any Good Relations, Equality or Rural Needs issues associate with this report.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
	<p>Appendix 1 – Current division of SRAs</p> <p>Appendix 2 – Revised division of SRAs if the increase in the maximum is applied</p> <p>Appendix 3 – Proposed Scheme of Allowances 2022-2023</p> <p>Appendix 4 – Local Government Circular LG 10/2022</p>