

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**AMENDMENTS TO THE MEMBERS' ALLOWANCE SCHEME****1. Purpose of report:**

- 1.1 Full Council are asked to approve amendments to the Members' Allowance Scheme to allow parental leave for councillors, following recommendations by the Independent Remuneration Panel agreed by City Council on 13 March 2018.

2. Background:

- 2.1 A Councillor who is absent from all meetings of the Council and any committees of which they are a member for a period of six months automatically ceases to be a Member of the Council unless they have been given leave of absence by the Council before the expiry of that six month period (s.85 Local Government Act 1972). The responsibility for compliance with these requirements lies with the individual councillor.
- 2.2 In Birmingham, questions were raised by members as to what provision could or should be made for those members who wished to take maternity, paternity or adoption leave.
- 2.3 The Independent Remuneration Panel considered the issue, and in March 2018 made the following recommendations:

The City Council brings in a policy for maternity, paternity and adoption leave for elected members, covering both the Basic Allowance and the Special Responsibility Allowance.

• The Panel recommends that Members shall continue to receive their Basic Allowance in full during parental leave for six months subject to review and possible six month extension. If, however, an election is held during Members' parental leave and they are not re-elected, or decide not to stand for re-election, the basic allowance will cease from the date when they are no longer a Member.

• The Panel recommends that Members entitled to a Special Responsibility Allowance continue to receive this allowance during parental leave in line with the City Council employee policy (i.e. for weeks 1 to 6, 90% of the SRA, and weeks 7 to 18, 50% of the SRA). If, however, an election is held during Members' parental leave and they are not re-elected, or decide not to stand for re-election, or are removed from the post which attracts the SRA, the SRA will cease from the date when they are no longer a Member or no longer hold the post.

- 2.4 These recommendations were accepted by City Council on 13th March 2018. This report brings forward the consequent amendments to the Members' Allowance Scheme.
- 2.5 Committee considered the amendments and are recommending that City Council revise the Members' Allowance Scheme as set out in the appendix attached.

MOTION

That the Members' Allowance Scheme is amended as set out in Appendix 1 to allow parental leave for councillors, following recommendations by the Independent Remuneration Panel agreed by City Council on 13 March 2018.