

# Birmingham City Council

## City Council

14 June 2022



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**Subject:** Annual Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel 2021-22

**Report of:** The City Solicitor

**Report author:** Ingrid Whyte, Governance

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If relevant, state which appendix is exempt, and provide exempt information paragraph number or reason if confidential :

### 1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Annual Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel was discussed at the Council Business Management Committee meeting of 31 May 2022 and a copy of the Panel's Report is attached as an Appendix to this Report.
- 1.2 The Panel has worked consistently within the requirements of the Local Government Act 2000 and the accompanying Statutory Guidance and Regulations on Councillors' allowances.
- 1.3 The City Council must have regard to the recommendations of an Independent Remuneration Panel before it can set up or amend its Members' Allowances Scheme. The Council is, of course, free to accept the Panel's recommendations in full, in part, or not all.

### 2 Motion

- 2.1 The Recommendations made by the Independent Remuneration Panel on page 3 of its Annual Report be accepted and implemented with effect from 24 May 2022.

### 3 2021/22 Report and Recommendations

- 3.1 Last year the Panel committed to re-establish the link to the comparator agreed in 2013, after several years of no increases, with the intention to bring the basic allowance back to parity with the ASHE over the remaining years of the four-year electoral term. In this year's report, the Panel confirms its recommendation to increase the basic allowance, re-establishing the link to the comparator agreed,

bringing the Basic Allowance back to parity with the ASHE and that the Special Responsibility Allowance remains unchanged.

This results in a recommended 1% approximate increase, for the basic allowance and no change to the special responsibility allowances for the 2022 – 2023 municipal year.

3.2 In addition, the Panel received evidence detailing how the role of the Chief Whip had evolved over the past 4 years, with the plan for the role to expand even further. This results in a recommended new Special Responsibility Allowance of £2,829.00 for the role of Chief Whip and the updating of the Members' Allowance Scheme accordingly.

3.3 As in previous years, and before coming to a conclusion for the 2022/23 year, the Panel invited evidence from several sources, including meetings with the Group Leaders and Deputy Leaders, Councillors and Officers. The Panel also reviewed allowances paid by other local authorities including other core city allowances.

## **4 Appendices**

4.1 Appendix 1: Annual Report of the Birmingham Independent Remuneration Panel 2021-2022.