

Birmingham City Council

City Council

15 September 2020



Subject: Annual Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel 2019-20

Report of: Council Business Management Committee

Report author: Emma Williamson, Head of Scrutiny Services

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 23 March 2020 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 4 of its Annual Report be accepted and implemented with effect from 19 May 2020.

3 2019/20 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 ASHE over the remaining years of this four year electoral term. In this year's report, the Panel confirms its recommendation to incrementally increase the basic and special responsibility allowances to "catch up"

with the ASHE comparator. This results in a recommended 4.4% increase for basic and special responsibility allowances for the 2020 municipal year.

- 3.2 In addition, the City Council asked the Panel to look at a number of specific issues including the role of Licensing Sub Committee Chairs, and the level of special responsibility allowances paid to Opposition Leaders and Deputies, Group Secretaries and Whips. The report includes recommendations on these.
- 3.3 As in previous years, and before coming to a conclusion for the 2020/21 year, the Panel invited evidence from a number of sources, including face to face meetings with the Leader and Deputy Leader of Labour, Leader of the Conservatives and Deputy Leader of the Liberal Democrats, written submissions and face to face meetings with Councillors, including those from single and two member wards. 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 2019-2020