

Contact Officer: Andrea Woodside

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

Friday 9th August 2019

Present: Councillor Will Simpson (Chair)
Councillor Steve Hall
Councillor John Taylor
Councillor Paola Antonia Davies
Councillor Susan Lee-Richards
Councillor Andrew Marchington

Ex-Officio Members Councillor Elizabeth Smaje

Observers: Councillor Mohan Sokhal

Apologies: Councillor Kath Pinnock
Councillor Paul Davies (ex-Officio)

1 Membership of the Committee

Councillor Marchington substituted for Councillor K Pinnock.

2 Interests

No interests were declared.

3 Minutes of Previous Meeting - 5 July 2019

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 5 July 2019 be approved as a correct record.

4 Admission of the Public

It was noted that all Agenda Items would be considered in public session.

5 Deputations/Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

6 Public Question Time

No questions were asked.

7 Report of the Members Allowances Independent Review Panel (MAIRP)

The Committee received the report of the Members Allowances Independent Review Panel (MAIRP), following its meeting on 5 July 2019 to consider (i) the adoption of a Parental Leave Policy for Councillors and (ii) the Special Responsibility Allowance paid to the Place Partnerships Lead Role. The committee received a presentation regarding place based working and the role of a place partnership lead member.

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The Committee were advised of the considerations which the Panel had taken into account in formulating their recommendations and that it was proposed (i) that the Members Allowances Scheme be amended to include a Special Responsibility Allowance for the Place Partnerships Lead Councillor Role at Band D (£5,009) and (ii) that a Parental Leave Policy be adopted.

Discussion took place with regards to the role of elected councillors within place based working, the skills and responsibilities to be demonstrated by the place partnership lead member, and governance and accountability issues regarding placed based working. The Committee supported the approach proposed and asked questions regarding the relevant cabinet portfolio responsibility, the sharing of intelligence with and engagement of ward councillors and the determination of ward level priorities.

It was noted that the Panel proposed to hear evidence from the Place Partnership Lead Members when it next meets in November 2019 in order to review what has been achieved so far and to give consideration to reviewing the allowance, if appropriate.

In regards to the adoption of Parental Leave Policy, the Committee welcomed the adoption of the proposed policy and endorsed its submission to Council.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the report and recommendations of the Members Allowances Independent Review Panel be received and noted.
- (2) That a report be submitted to Council with the recommendation that approval be given to adopting the changes proposed to (i) the Allowances Scheme in respect of the Place Partnerships Lead Councillor Role and (ii) the Parental Leave Policy.