

Contact Officer: Leigh Webb

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

Tuesday 12 September 2023

Present: Councillor James Homewood (Chair)
Councillor Yusra Hussain
Councillor Harry McCarthy
Councillor Andrew Pinnock
Councillor Mohan Sokhal
Councillor John Taylor

In attendance: Julie Muscroft – Service Director, Legal, Governance and Commissioning
Jacqui Gedman – Chief Executive
Councillor Paul Davies (Ex-Officio)

Apologies: Councillor Kath Pinnock
Councillor Mel Stephen
Chris Jones (Independent Member)
Councillor Elizabeth Smaje (Ex-Officio)
Councillor Moses Crook (Ex-Officio)

1 Membership of the Committee

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Kath Pinnock (substitute Councillor Andrew Pinnock), Councillor Naheed Mather (su Chris Jones (Independent Member), Councillor Paul Davies (Ex-Officio) and Councillor Elizabeth Smaje (Ex- Officio).

2 Declarations of Interest

No interests were declared.

3 Admission of the Public

It was noted that all agenda items would be considered in public.

4 Deputations/Petitions

There were no deputations or petitions received.

5 Public Question Time

No questions were asked under this item.

6 Members Allowance Scheme (Reference to Council)

The Committee received a report setting out proposals for Council to look at the Members Allowance Scheme with a view to reducing them in light of the current financial position of the Council.

The report requested that a Members' Allowance Independent panel be convened to consider allowances for the 24/25 Financial year and also requested that members agree to forego an uprate in allowances for the current 2023/24 based on the officer pay award and a 5% reduction in both the existing members basic allowance and Special Responsibility Allowances (SRA). The report also set out some background information and the process for doing that and sets out an option for making savings in the current year.

During discussion of this item, the Chair suggested a slight alteration to the wording in the final recommendation to clarify that Members not in attendance at the Council meeting were being asked whether or not they intended to forgo the increase and take a 5% reduction in their current allowances (basic and SRA)

RESOLVED – That the Committee recommends that Council:

- have regard to any comments or recommendations from CGAC about this matter;
- ask officers to work with Groups to convene a Members Allowance Independent Review panel as soon as possible to consider the allowances paid to Councillors having regard to the financial position of the Council;
- Ask all Members in attendance at the Council meeting to indicate by recorded vote whether they wish to forgo the increase in allowances (basic and SRA) based on the officer pay award for the 2023/24 financial year and in addition to take a 5% reduction in their current allowances (basic and SRA).
- Ask members not in attendance at the Council meeting to indicate whether they intend to forgo the increase and in addition take a 5% reduction in their current allowances (basic and SRA)