

Contact Officer: Andrea Woodside

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

Friday 8th March 2019

Present: Councillor Hilary Richards (Chair)
Councillor Carole Pattison
Councillor Kath Pinnock
Councillor Ken Sims
Councillor Julie Stewart-Turner

Apologies: Councillor John Taylor

1 Membership of the Committee

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor J Taylor.

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 25 January 2019 be approved as a correct record.

3 Interests

No interests were declared.

4 Admission of the Public

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

5 Deputations/Petitions

None received.

6 Public Question Time

No questions were asked.

7 Report of the Members Allowances Independent Review Panel 2019/20

The Committee gave consideration to a report which set out the recommendations of the Members Allowances Independent Review Panel for the 2019/2020 municipal year.

The report advised that the Panel had met on 30 November 2018 and had agreed the following recommendations; (i) that the current basic allowance for Elected Members be increased in line with the amount awarded to Council staff (2%) with effect from 1 April 2019 (ii) that Special Responsibility Allowances be increased in line with the amount awarded to Council staff (2%) from 1 April 2019 (iii) that the Chair of Standards Committee be paid at Band E, with effect from 1 April 2019, subject to review in 12 months and (iv) that the Special Responsibility Allowance paid to Group Business Managers of small groups (3-6 Elected Members) be paid at Band E, with effect from 1 April 2019.

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The draft Members Allowances Scheme for 2019/2020, was appended to the considered report.

The Committee gave consideration to the recommendations of the Panel and agreed that they be endorsed and submitted to Council with a recommendation of approval. It was agreed that details regarding the membership of the Independent Members Allowances Panel would be circulated to the Committee for information.

RESOLVED -

- 1) That the recommendations of the Members Allowances Independent Review Panel (Appendix A) be received and noted.

- 2) That the report be submitted to the meeting of Council on 20 March 2019 with a recommendation that the Members Allowances Scheme 2019/2020 (Appendix B) be approved and adopted with effect from 1 April 2019.

8 External Audit Plan

The Committee received the External Audit Plan for year end march 2019, as submitted by Grant Thornton, External Audit. The report set out the planned scope and timing of the audit review and it was noted that the main audit visit would take place in summer 2019, following the interim visit earlier in the year. The report advised that the audit would form and express and form an opinion on the Council's financial statements and value for money arrangements.

The Committee were provided with an overview of (i) key matters impacting upon the audit (ii) audit scope and risk assessment (iii) significant and other identified risks (iv) materiality (v) value for money arrangements and (vi) audit logistics.

RESOLVED - That the External Audit Plan be received and noted.