30 September 2025

Members' Allowances

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide Members with information to enable them to make a decision on the payment of a special responsibility allowance to the Chair of the Finance and Resources Committee and the Chair of the Audit and Review Committee.

Recommendation

2. Members resolve whether to:

   i. introduce a special responsibility allowance for the Chair of Finance and Resources Committee and the Chair of Audit and Review Committee payable from 1 October 2025; and
   ii. the level of that allowance.

Strategic Framework

3. The information and recommendation(s) contained in this report are consistent with the Authority's statutory purposes and support the strategic planning framework:
   - Corporate Plan Objective 30

     Operate Governance arrangements that are fit for purpose, as reported through the Annual Governance Statement and the Annual Governance Report.
   - The Scheme of Members Allowances 2025-26

Background

4. The Authority currently pays a special responsibility allowance (SRA) to the Chair, Deputy Chair, Chair of the Planning Committee and Deputy Chair of the Planning Committee as recompense for additional duties undertaken as a result of their holding of various positions within the Authority. The SRA is a proportion of the basic allowance which all Members receive, which is paid in addition to the basic allowance to those Members with special responsibilities. The SRA is allocated on the basis of degree of responsibility and on the expected call on Members' time.

5. When the Scheme of Members Allowances 2025-26 was approved at the Authority meeting on 25 March 2025, a Member asked whether consideration had been given to payment of a SRA

to the Chair of Finance and Resources Committee. Officers were asked to consider this further and bring a paper back to the Authority for a Members decision.

Outcome of review and proposals

6. Officers have undertaken a comparison of the SRA paid by all English NPAs. Seven out of ten English NPA's pay an allowance to either the Chair of a Committee; the Chair of a Finance and Resources Committee; the Chair of Audit and Governance Committee; or to a combined Finance and Audit Committee.

7. It would therefore be in keeping with the approach taken by other NPAs to pay an SRA to the Chair of the Finance and Resources Committee and the Chair of Audit and Review Committee.

8. A proposed rate of BA x 0.5 for both Chairs would seem to be appropriate and commensurate to the responsibility of these roles and the demand on time.

Financial Implications

9. There is no provision in the approved Budget 2025-26 for a special responsibility allowance to be paid to the Chair of Finance and Resources Committee or the Chair of Audit and Review Committee, however savings made in other areas of the Committees budget for 2025-26 would cover these additional payments (£2k for this period. The cost for a full year with effect from 2026-27 would be £3.9k (plus any increase following the annual pay award).

Legal Implications

10. None.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Implications

11. None.

Clare Burrows
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