

TRAFFORD COUNCIL

Report to: Council
Date: 22nd November 2023
Report for: Decision
Report of: Director of Legal and Governance and Monitoring Officer

Report Title

A Review of the Civic Allowances for the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Trafford Council.

Summary

To advise the Council of Dr Declan Hall recommendations after his review of Trafford Civic allowance.

Recommendation(s)

1. That Council consider the recommendations of Dr Declan Hall as set out on page 2, of appendix 1 to the report and decide on one of the following options:
 - (a) To accept the recommendations in full;
 - (b) To partially accept the recommendations with compelling reasons for doing so; or
 - (c) To reject the recommendations in full with compelling reasons for doing so.
2. That Council's thanks be conveyed to Dr Declan Hall for the work undertaken and report produced.

Contact person for access to background papers and further information:

Name: John Addison, Governance Manager

Background Information

Appendix 1 – Report from the Independent Remuneration Panel of May 2023.

Implications:

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| Relationship to Corporate Priorities | N/A |
| Relationship to GM Policy or Strategy Framework | N/A |
| Financial | The recommendation would see an increase in the cost of the Mayoral Allowances of approximately |

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| | £4,500 per annum, then linked to staff/member annual increases. This increase has been included in the Council's budget plans. |
| Legal Implications | Civic Allowances fall outside the remit of the 2003 Members' Allowances Regulations. However Civic Allowances are paid to Mayor and Deputy Mayor of the Council under the relevant sections of the Local Government Act 1972 and is an allowance which the Council thinks is reasonable for the purpose of meeting the expenses of holding those offices. |
| Equality/Diversity Implications | The scheme as a whole is intended to assist the objective of overcoming any financial and other disincentive that an individual might experience in being the Mayor and encourage persons from all sections of the community to accept the honour of being first citizen if offered the chance. The author has given consideration to the subject of equalities in its report. |
| Sustainability Implications | There are no implications arising from this report. |
| Carbon Reduction | There are no implications arising from this report. |
| Staffing/E-Government/Asset Management Implications | N/A |
| Risk Management Implications | N/A |
| Health and Safety Implications | N/A |

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The Civic Allowances are paid to Mayor and Deputy Mayor of the Council under the relevant sections of the Local Government Act 1972 and is an allowance which the Council thinks is reasonable for the purpose of meeting the expenses of holding those offices. As such, the Civic Allowances fall outside the remit of the 2003 Members' Allowances Regulations and therefore not considered by the statutory Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) in its recent review of Members' Allowances
- 1.2 During the review of allowances in early 2023 it was agreed by Members and Officers that once the IRP had delivered its recommendations that the Civic Allowance would also be looked to be reviewed as it had been at least 10 years since they were last reviewed. It was further agreed that the Chair of the IRP, Dr Declan Hall, would be commissioned to lead the review.
- 1.3 The Chair of the IRP, Dr Declan Hall, was commissioned to lead the review.
- 1.4 This covering report has been produced to accompany the detailed report of the Dr Declan Hall that is included at appendix 1. Reference should be made to that report for further information and detail.
- 1.5 The Council is not obliged to follow the proposals of Dr Declan Hall.

2 Terms of Reference of the IRP

- 2.1 The reviewer, Dr Declan Hall, was asked by the Council to review the Council's Civic Allowance paid to the:
- A. The Mayor of Trafford Council:
 - B. The Deputy Mayor of Trafford Council.

In arriving at the recommendations, the review took into account:

- I. The views of relevant Members
- II. Factual briefings from relevant Council Officers
- III. Civic Allowances paid across the 10 Greater Manchester Councils

3. Recommendation

- 1) That Council consider the recommendations of Dr Declan Hall as set out on page 2, of appendix 1 to the report and decide on one of the following options:
 - (a) To accept the recommendations in full;
 - (b) To partially accept the recommendations with compelling reasons for doing so; or
 - (c) To reject the recommendations in full with compelling reasons for doing so.
- 2) That Council's thanks be conveyed to Dr Declan Hall for the work undertaken and report produced.