

Draft

WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE SHADOW AUTHORITY

SCHEME OF MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES 2020/2021

GUIDANCE NOTES FOR MEMBERS

In accordance with the Local Authorities (Member's Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 (Statutory Instrument 2003 No 1021) this scheme was agreed at the meeting of the West Northamptonshire Shadow Authority held on 18 August 2020. This Scheme will be in place during the 2020/2021 Financial Year, beginning with the day on which the Northamptonshire (Structural Changes) Order 2020 came into force and ending on 31 March 2021 (the "Shadow Period").

1. The allowances approved for the Shadow Period are as follows:

1.1. Basic Allowance

Elected Members of all Councils comprising the West Northamptonshire Shadow Authority currently receive a basic allowance from their predecessor councils to recognise the time devoted to carry out their work as Councillors, including attendance at meetings, and constituency activities. These basic allowances are intended to cover incidental costs such as travel and subsistence.

The basic allowance of each Council applies equally to the business of the West Northamptonshire Shadow Authority as a function of all Councils as they transition into a new West Northamptonshire Council from 1 April 2021 with elections to the new Council taking place in May 2021. The amount of basic allowance payable to Members by the West Northamptonshire Shadow Authority will be set at nil.

The basic allowance for members of West Northamptonshire Council from 1 April 2021 onwards will be reviewed by an Independent Remuneration Panel and reported to the West Northamptonshire Shadow Authority before the cessation of the Shadow Period.

1.2. Special Responsibility Allowances (SRAs)

The amount of special responsibility allowances payable to Members by the West Northamptonshire Shadow Authority will be set at nil, subject to the following exceptions:

Chair of the Shadow Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The SRA for the Chair of the Shadow Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be set at £6,459.

Chair of the West Northamptonshire Shadow Authority

The SRA for the Chair of the Shadow Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be set at £5,000.

1.3. Travelling, Subsistence and Dependant Carers' Allowances

Travel, subsistence and dependant carers' claims must be made in accordance with the Schemes operated by each of the District Councils and the County Council in West Northamptonshire, and by Members submitting claims to their respective Council. The rates for travelling and subsistence allowances are set out in the schemes of Daventry District Council, Northampton Borough Council, Northamptonshire County Council and South Northants Council.

1.4. Co-opted and Independent Members

There will be no co-opted members of Committees appointed to sit on Panels and for a constituted meeting by the West Northamptonshire Shadow Authority, so no allowance is required.

During the Shadow Period, there will be an Independent Person (who will be appointed) who will be consulted on any Code of Conduct or Standards matters.

2. Submission of Claims

Claims for allowances must be made in accordance with the existing arrangements operated by each of the District Councils and the County Council in West Northamptonshire of which the claimant is a Member.

3. Duration of Scheme

This Scheme is for the period during the 2020/2021 Financial Year, beginning with the day on which the Northamptonshire (Structural Changes) Order 2020 came into force and ending on 31 March 2021 (the "Shadow Period").

4. Review of Scheme

The Scheme for the new West Northamptonshire Council from 1 April 2021 onwards, will be reviewed by an Independent Remuneration Panel and reported to the West Northamptonshire Shadow Authority before the cessation of the Shadow Period.

5. Enquiries

If Members have any queries regarding claims for allowances, they can contact their respective Democratic Services Team:

Daventry District Council – governance@daventrydc.gov.uk

Northampton Borough Council – democractiservices@northampton.gov.uk

Northamptonshire County Council democraticservices@northamptonshire.gov.uk

South Northants Council - democracy@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk