

Report to Council

Subject: Independent Remuneration Panel - Report and recommendations for Audit co-opted member and mileage rates

Date: 30 September 2026

Author: Democratic Services Manager

Purpose

To inform Council of the latest report from the Council's Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) relating to the Co-opted Member for Audit Committee allowance and mileage rates for Councillors and to invite Council to consider the recommendations made by the Panel.

Recommendations

- 1) To consider the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel and whether to accept the recommendations contained in the report, or to propose an alternative; and**
- 2) Consequent on the IRP recommendations being accepted, to agree the schedule of members' allowances for 2026/27 as attached at Appendix 2 to this report; and**
- 3) To authorise the Monitoring Officer to make appropriate amendments to section 29 of the Constitution to reflect any changes to the members' allowances scheme agreed**

1. Background

- 1.1. The last IRP recommendations were debated at the Council meeting in January 2026 with members choosing not to accept some of the panel's recommendations – namely to remove the allowance for the Business Managers and Policy Advisors. It is also useful to note that at the meeting in January 2024, members agreed to link both Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances to increase in line with Chief Officer's local authority pay awards until the 2028/29 financial year.
- 1.2. The purpose of the mid-year meeting of the IRP was to review the allowances currently paid to co-opted members of the Audit Committee,

following a request for review recommended by Audit Committee, this is due to a review of the role as a new recruitment exercise to appoint an additional Audit Independent Member is undertaken.

- 1.3. It was also necessary to review the mileage rates paid to all members following a change to the scheme for officers of the council and the need to keep the two payments in line with each other. HMRC announced changes to mileage rates in May 2026 backdated to 1 April 2026. Mileage rates have increased from 45p-55p per mile (see appendix 3). Whilst the Council's mileage rate previously aligned with the National Joint Council's Green Book terms in respect of mileage, which remain at the lower rate, the recommendation from government is that councils should adopt the higher HMRC rate. This position was agreed for officers but has not yet been confirmed for members as the payment levels form part of the Member Allowances Scheme and require review by the Panel.
- 1.4. The panel convened on 12 August via teams to discuss the above matters. They reviewed the comments of the current Independent Member and heard about the level of work – such as the intense financial document reviewing and scrutinising - that the role entails. They also reviewed some benchmarking data which noted the allowance that other councils paid their co-opted members and their current mileage rates. It should be noted that the fee for the Independent Member on Audit Committee has not been reviewed since the role commenced in 2024.
- 1.5. It was noted that the review was solely for the co-opted member of the Audit Committee and would not affect the co-opted members on Standards Committee – this was due to the specialist expertise and qualifications required of the Independent Audit Member.
- 1.6. After reviewing all relevant information, the panel agreed upon the below recommendations:
 - That the allowance for the Co-opted Member on the Audit Committee should increase to £800 per year; and
 - That the allowance for mileage should rise in line with officer rates; and
 - No other changes are made for the 2026/27 year.

2. Proposal

- 2.1 The Panel's report, including associated recommendations, is attached at Appendix 1. Recommendations are noted above at 1.5.
- 2.2 Should Council be minded to accept the Panel's recommendations, then the level of allowances to be paid to members for 2026/27, will be as set out at Appendix 2.

3. Alternative Options

- 3.1 The Independent Remuneration Panel is advisory in nature so Council could decide on an alternative proposals or choose to do nothing.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 Should Council accept the Panel's recommendations, then costs will be found and added to the current budgets for 2026/27.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 (as amended) set out that local authorities must establish a panel to review and advise on the level of allowances payable to members. The Council must have regard to the recommendation made by the Panel, but do not have to accept them. Any changes to the scheme must be considered by the Panel prior to implementation.
Any changes to schemes in year can be backdated to the start of the year the change took effect.

6. Equalities Implications

- 6.1 The scheme as a whole seeks to support members by providing financial support for carers and parents.

7. Carbon Reduction/Environmental Sustainability Implications

- 7.1 There are no direct environmental impacts as a result of this report.

8. Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix 1 – Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel – Aug 26
- 8.2 Appendix 2 – Proposed schedule of Members Allowances 2026/27
- 8.3 Appendix 3 – HMRC Mileage Rates [Travel — mileage and fuel rates and allowances - GOV.UK](#)

9. Background Papers

- 9.1 None identified

10. Local Government Reorganisation

10.1 The changes to allowance for Co-opted Independent Members on Audit Committee has already had regard to other local authorities within Nottinghamshire. The levels of allowance under the current Scheme will significantly alter with the establishment of the two new Councils. An Independent remuneration Panel will need to be established to consider proposed schemes going forward.

Statutory Officer approval

Approved by: Mike Hill

Financial Officer

Date: 22.09.2026

Approved by: Fran Whyley

Monitoring Officer

Date: 22.09.2026