



# Minutes

## Full Authority

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Date: 30 March 2023

Time: 10am

Venue: FSHQ

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Present: Cllrs O'Donovan (in the chair), Ahmed, Almas, Downes, Farmer, Fazal, Harrand, Illingworth, Midgley, Mohammed, Pollard, Renshaw, Shaheen, Tulley and Wood.

In Attendance: [Click here to enter text.](#)

Apologies: Cllrs Anderson, Hall, Hussain, Keith, Kirton and Pervaiz

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### **69 Chair's announcements**

There were no chairs announcements.

### **70 Admission of the public**

There were no items that required to exclusion of the press and public.

### **71 Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interest in any matter under discussion at the meeting.

### **72 Independent Review of Member Allowances**

The Director of Corporate Services presented a report detailing the recent independent review of member allowances.

Members expressed thanks to Dr Hall for submitting the detailed report.

Members welcomed the removal of the deduction to member allowances for non-attendance without notice at Committees, as this was usually for a genuine unavoidable reason.

Members challenged whether it was necessary to backdate the increase to the basic allowance and acknowledged that although it was uncomfortable to discuss and approve an increase in their allowances, it was necessary as a formal review had not been completed for some time. It was considered that for democracy to thrive it has to be financially viable for members to attend committees and it was appreciated that the number of attendances can vary greatly dependant on allocation of committee places. It was noted that members have the choice to opt out from the allowances scheme should they prefer.

The chair proposed a recorded vote on the proposals and the following results were recorded:

Cllrs Ahmed, Almas, Downes, Fazal, Harrand, Illingworth, Midgley, Mohammed, O'Donovan, Pollard, Renshaw, Shaheen, Tulley and Wood voted to accept the proposals made in the report

Cllr Farmer voted to abstain.

It was, therefore;

### **RESOLVED**

- a) That the WYFRA Basic Allowance be reset at £4,159 for 2022/23, subject to the application of the recommended indexation over future years.
- b) That all Special Responsibility Allowances (SRA) paid by the Authority for 2023/24 as set out in the report remain unchanged subject to the application of the recommended indexation, which will be further reviewed in 2025/26.
- c) That the one SRA rule only be maintained.
- d) That the current remuneration of the Independent Person and Independent Member of the Audit Committee (Co-optee) is maintained at £500, subject to the recommended indexation.
- e) That the West Yorkshire FRA allowances scheme is clarified to state that where a Member is claiming mileage allowances via travel by a hybrid or electric vehicle then HMRC rates should be paid.
- f) That current Subsistence rates be maintained.
- g) That the Authority formally adopt the indices as set out in the report for the maximum period permissible (2023-27), before the Authority is required to review indexation again.
- h) That the non attendance without notice deduction scheme is removed with immediate effect.

Chair