


Agenda Item No:	12	
Committee:	Council	
Date:	15 September 2025	
Report Title:	Members' Allowances – Combined Authority SRA for Overview and Scrutiny and Audit and Governance Committees	

1 Purpose / Summary

To consider ceasing payment to Fenland District Council members of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) Overview and Scrutiny and Audit and Governance Committees.

2 Key Issues

- 2.1 As a result of an Independent Remuneration Panel recommendation at the Combined Authority they have agreed to make payments to constituent authority members of their Overview and Scrutiny and Audit and Governance Committees.
- 2.2 The last Fenland Members Allowances Review in December 2023 agreed to pay Fenland District Council members appointed to CPCA Committees (excluding other substitute Committee members) an SRA.
- 2.3 Three members are affected by this proposal and are now receiving two payments for the same role, one from the CPCA and one from Fenland District Council.
- 2.4 Consultation has been undertaken with neighbouring authorities to ascertain the approach these authorities are taking and with the affected members and Fenland's Independent Remuneration Panel.

3 Recommendations

- 3.1 To act on the feedback of the Independent Remuneration Panel and agree to remove the SRA from the Members' Allowances Scheme for members appointed to the CPCA Overview and Scrutiny and Audit and Governance Committees.
- 3.2 To agree to delegate to the Monitoring Officer to update the Members' Allowances Scheme within the Constitution in line with the decision taken by Council as set out at Appendix 1.

Wards Affected	All
Forward Plan Reference	Not Applicable
Portfolio Holder	Councillor Chris Boden, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Governance
Report Originator(s)	Elaine Cooper, Elections, Land Charges and Member Services Team Leader

Contact Officer(s)	Carol Pilson, Corporate Director and Monitoring Officer Amy Brown, Assistant Director and Deputy Monitoring Officer
Background Papers	Combined Authority e-mail and IRP report - Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel.pdf

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 At the last Members Allowances Review approved in December 2023, the Independent Remuneration Panel agreed to pay an SRA to members appointed to committees on the CPCA due to the significant responsibilities, extent of decision making and associated time commitment these roles carry above that expected of a District Councillor. The IRP also acknowledged the importance and associated potential benefits of having Fenland representatives contributing to the role of the CPCA and recognised that at that time the CPCA did not pay an allowance to members of constituent authorities on these committees.
- 1.2 On 6 June 2025 the CPCA notified authorities that, as a result of their own Independent Remuneration Panel recommendations, they would be paying a special responsibility allowance of £2,176 to constituent local authority members of their Overview and Scrutiny and Audit and Governance Committees.
- 1.3 Members who sit on the CPCA Overview and Scrutiny and Audit and Governance committees are now currently receiving two allowances for the same role.

2 CONSULTATION

- 2.1 Benchmarking was undertaken with the other authorities in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to ascertain whether they were going to cease payment of their allowance to members of these committees of the CPCA. Three of the authorities are ceasing their payments, one was still deciding on the way forward and the other authority did not pay an allowance.
- 2.2 Members who currently sit on the Overview and Scrutiny and Audit and Governance Committees were also canvassed to seek their views on whether this SRA should cease to be paid by Fenland. All three affected members agreed that the SRA from Fenland should be removed.
- 2.3 Members of Fenland's Independent Remuneration Panel (Amanda Orchard, Nicky Blanning and Ged Demsey) were also contacted to seek their views and they all agreed that the SRA for these committees should be withdrawn in light of the Combined Authority now making a payment.

3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 3.1 Do nothing but then members of the Overview and Scrutiny and Audit and Governance Committees would be receiving two SRAs for the same role, one from the CPCA and one from Fenland District Council.

4 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Legal Implications

The Constitution requires that any amendment to the Member Allowance Scheme is made by Full Council, ordinarily following a review by the Independent Remuneration Panel. In this instance as the proposed amendment impacts only one aspect of the Members' Allowance Scheme which was put in place to address a specific issue which has now been resolved by the CPCA, it was considered that seeking the views of the IRP would suffice. The views of the IRP have been reflected in this Report and the correct governance is therefore in place to enable members to take a properly constituted decision.

4.2 Financial Implications

- 4.2.1 Should the recommendations set out in this report be approved, there will be a small saving to Member Allowances payments of approximately £3,912 per annum (this figure does not include pay award increases for 2025/26).

4.3 Equality Implications

Not applicable.

PART 6

MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME

3. SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY ALLOWANCE

- 3.1 For each year a special responsibility allowance shall be paid to those councillors who hold special responsibilities outlined within the Schedule of Allowances.
- 3.2 The amount of each such allowance shall be that specified in the schedule to this scheme.
- 3.3 A councillor may receive no more than one special responsibility allowance at any one time, with the exception of the allowance to Planning Committee members and the allowance to members of the Combined Authority.
- 3.4 No SRA allowance will be paid to members of the Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny and Audit and Governance Committees due to the Combined Authority now paying the constituent authority members an allowance.
- 3.5 In considering the Allowances for Opposition Group Leaders, the Main Opposition Group Leader Allowance will be given to the Leader of the largest group, of 5 members or more. Any other opposition group leaders will receive the Other Opposition Allowance regardless of the size of the group. In the event there are two or more equal sized opposition groups each having 5 or more members then they will all receive the Main Opposition Group Leader Allowance. In the event there are two or more Other Opposition Group Leaders then they will all receive the Other Opposition Group Leader Allowance.

(ii) Special Responsibility Allowance

Payable to the following post holders:

Combined Authority Committee Members (apart from Overview and Scrutiny and Audit and Governance Committee members)

£1304 p.a.