



Title of Report:	Scheme of Allowances
Committee Report Submitted To:	Corporate, Policy and Resources
Date of Meeting:	28 January 2020
For Decision or For Information	For Decision

Linkage to Council Strategy (2019-23)	
Strategic Theme	Leader and Champion
Outcome	Our Elected Members will provide civic leadership to our citizens, working to promote the Borough as an attractive place to live, work, invest and visit.
Lead Officer	Chief Finance Officer

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	£865,749
Included in Current Year Estimates	YES/NO
Capital/Revenue	Revenue
Code	
Staffing Costs	

Screening Requirements	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	Yes/No	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:

1.1 Background

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council has established a scheme of allowances payable to Members for the current period. The scheme provides for the payment of allowances to Councillors on the basis that:

- 1 – The maximum level of basic allowance as determined by the Department for Communities (DfC) is paid
- 2 – The maximum level of carers allowances as determined by the DfC are paid
- 3 – The maximum level of mileage rates as determined by the DfC are paid
- 4 – Councillors' payments are made on the third last banking day of each month

1.2 Detail

The updated scheme of allowances, a copy of which has been included with this report, takes into account a number of factors:

- 1 – basic allowance – budget allows for 2% increase but not yet notified
- 2 – mileage rates
- 3 – new increased rates for dependant carer's allowance
- 4 – Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA)

The four items are in keeping with the normal periodic update of the scheme of.

1.3 Amendments

In October 2019 Council formed a new Finance committee which was not provided for in previous schemes of allowances therefore the Chair was not allocated any SRA. This new scheme does allocate the same SRA to the Finance Committee chair as to the other main committees (£3,000 p.a). This does however present a problem in that there are now 22 positions of responsibility and regulation only permits 20 members to be in receipt of SRA. Until now we have dealt with this issue by making the Partnership Panel representative a member of the Planning committee thereby creating a double responsibility but only one SRA can be received, the higher of the 2 being applicable.

1.4 Current positions of responsibility

The current positions of responsibility which are governed by the 20 member limit are as follows:

- 1 C,P&R Committee Chair
- 2 L & D Committee Chair
- 3 ES Committee Chair
- 4 Planning Committee Chair
- 5 Finance Committee Chair
- 6 Audit Committee Chair
- 7 Partnership Panel Representative
- 8 -22 Planning Committee Member (15)

1.5 Rates of Special Responsibility Allowance

The current rates of SRA are as follows:

Committee chair (except Audit)	£3,000	(x5)
Audit Committee chair	£ 750	
Planning Committee Member	£1,200	(x15)
Partnership Panel rep.	£1,000	

1.6 Application

The new scheme of allowances will be effective from 1 April 2020 until 31 March 2021 unless previously amended or updated.

1.7 Recommendation

It is recommended that member consider the allocation of positions of responsibility and associated special responsibility allowance so that the new scheme of allowances can be approved coming into force from 1 April 2020.