

Mayoral Combined Authority Board

Tuesday, 04 June 2024

Mayoral Allowance

Is the paper exempt from the press and public? No

Reason why exempt: Not applicable

Purpose of this report: Governance

Is this a Key Decision? Yes

Has it been included on the Forward Plan of Key Decisions? Yes

Director Approving Submission of the Report:

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Report Author(s):

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Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to propose to the Combined Authority the recommended level of remuneration/allowance for the role Elected Mayor and for the MCA to determine the level of allowance payable to the Mayor.

Recommendations

That the Board:

1. Endorse the establishment of the Independent Remuneration Panel and that their reasonable time commitment be remunerated;
2. Determine the allowance payable to the incumbent Mayor considering the Independent Remuneration Panel's recommendation that the appropriate allowance payable for the role of South Yorkshire Mayor is £107,000 (indexed linked going forward);
3. Agree the allowance will be payable from 7th May 2024 being the date that the Police and Crime Commissioner functions transferred to the Mayor; and
4. Agree that the remuneration be reviewed in again in 4 years;

1. Background

1.1 The Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield Combined Authority (Functions and Amendment) Order 2020 provides that the MCA can pay an allowance for the role of Mayor following consideration of a report produced by an Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP). The Order sets out the process to be followed. The legislation states:-

The Combined Authority may only pay an allowance to the Mayor or to the Deputy Mayor if—

- (a) the Combined Authority has considered a report published by the independent remuneration panel established under paragraph 7A which contains recommendations for such an allowance; and*
- (b) the allowance paid by the Combined Authority does not exceed the amount specified in the recommendation made by the independent remuneration panel.*

1.2 The present allowance for the Mayor was set in January 2021 at £79,000 by the IRP. The level of allowance payable has not been reviewed since. It was felt appropriate to do so at this point in time due to the change in remit of the role following the transfer of Police and Crime Commissioner functions to the Mayor. These functions are exercisable by the Mayor (not the MCA).

1.3 The IRP was established by the Monitoring Officer in April 2024. The Panel met on several occasions to consider comparator data/benchmarking information, the role generally including sphere of influence and undertook interviews with a number of MCA Officers and the Leader of RMBC.

2. Key Issues

2.1 The remit of the IRP was to consider and recommend the allowance payable for the role of City Region Mayor taking in to account the functions and responsibilities that attach to the role.

2.2 The IRP's report is Appended hereto [and will be presented at the meeting by the Chair of the IRP]. The MCA may only pay an allowance once they have considered the report of the IRP recommending an allowance and that allowance payable cannot exceed the amount recommendation by the panel. The panel makes a recommendation that the allowance payable for the role of Mayor should be set at £107,000 with an additional recommendation that it is indexed to ensure an automatic annual uplift.

3. Options Considered and Recommended Proposal

3.1 **Option 1**

Not to pay an allowance

3.2 **Option 1 Risks and Mitigations**

Not paying an allowance for the role of Mayor would mean the SCR MCA was out of line with all other MCA Mayoral roles and other senior elected roles and the lack of remuneration may mean that attracting suitable candidates for the role of Mayor is more difficult or limits the pool of candidates to those that have other sources of income. The allowance reflects the important role afforded to City Region Mayors and the time commitment required.

3.3 **Option 2**

To pay an allowance as envisaged by the legislation.

3.4 **Option 2 Risks and Mitigations**

Budget needs to be found for the level of remuneration approved. This is mitigated by the fact that the present allowance is already budgeted for.

3.5 **Recommended Option**

Option 2

4. **Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision**

The recommendation is that the level of allowance payable approved is effective from 7th May 2024 to align with the transfer of PCC functions.

5. **Financial and Procurement Implications and Advice**

5.1 The cost of the IRP and the allowance payable to the Mayor will initially be met from Mayoral Capacity Funding. From the beginning of the financial year when any MCF ceases the allowance will be funded from core funding.

6. **Legal Implications and Advice**

6.1 The MCA is statutorily allowed to pay an allowance as set out in the body of the report.

7. **Human Resources Implications and Advice**

None arising directly from this report.

8. **Equality and Diversity Implications and Advice**

- 8.1 By paying an allowance the position of Mayor may be more accessible for a wider pool of candidates.

9. **Climate Change Implications and Advice**

None arising directly from this report.

10. **Information and Communication Technology Implications and Advice**

None arising directly from this report.

11. **Communications and Marketing Implications and Advice**

None arising directly from this report.

List of Appendices Included:

- A. Appendix 1 – Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel

Background Papers:

Role profile