

## **Record of Officer Urgent Decision**

**Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority - Special Responsibility Allowance - Cllr Anna Smith, Deputy-Mayor fulfilling Mayoral duties while CPCA Mayor Dr. Nick Johnson takes leave of absence.**

Reference: 22/OfficerUrgent/Civ/04

Date of decision: 21 December 2022

### **Briefing paper to Independent Remuneration Panel on Deputy Mayor of Combined Authority-special responsibility allowance**

Consideration by the Panel is sought on a new special responsibility allowance for a limited period of time and in exceptional circumstances.

#### **Decision Process**

A recommendation from the Panel then a decision by Council is required quickly to enable Cllr Smith to organise her personal circumstances for this period of additional and unplanned special responsibility, which will require a significant reduction in her paid working hours. Your recommendation will be considered by the Chief Executive and their decision will be reported to Councillors under the Council's Urgency Action Procedures as this cannot await a decision by either Civic Affairs Committee (8 February 2023) or Council (2 March 2023) because of the timing of this appointment.

This decision relates to one allowance alone and is not reviewing the entire allowances scheme last agreed by Council in March 2022 following a review by the Independent Remuneration Panel.

#### **Background**

Cllr Anna Smith, Leader of the Council and Combined Authority Board member for the city council, has taken up the position of Deputy Mayor of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) and the Mayor Dr Nik Johnson's official duties while he takes a leave of absence for medical treatment.

Cllr Smith became the city council's Combined Authority Board member and the Deputy Mayor from 18 November 2022. The first meeting that Cllr Smith will Chair on 30 November is on the link below for interest, although there is no

detailed report explaining the transition, having been explained in a [news release](#) copied to you on 15 November. At the time of writing, I'm not clear if Cllr Smith will take a seat on the Combined Authority Transport and Infrastructure Committee, which Mayor Johnson had Chaired, and which met on 16 November - I can explain further when we meet. The Combined Authority website does not show Cllr Smith as a member of this committee - you will clarify this when you interview her.

### [CMIS > Meetings](#)

The Government has clarified that there is no provision in the regulations covering the operation of the Combined Authority to provide a Members Allowance for any elected representative other than the Mayor. The Mayor's Allowance for 2022/23 is £86,121.

The positions which Cllr A Smith receives a Special Responsibility Allowance are:

Leader of the Council - £16,662

Combined Authority Board member (wef 18 November 2022) - £5,554 (full year).

Under the Council's Scheme the maximum number of special responsibility allowances a councillor can receive is 3.

The table below illustrates special responsibility allowance of the Leaders of the District Councils that make up the Combined Authority and the Mayor's allowance:

Council	Leader	Combined Authority Board
Cambridge	16,662	5,554
East Cambridgeshire	14,636	-
Fenland	17,653	-
Huntingdonshire	14,813	5,100

South Cambridgeshire	11,818	5,277
Mayor of the Combined Authority	-	86,121

**21 December 2022 - Comments of the Independent Review Panel following review of the above briefing paper and interview with Councillor A Smith**

*“On 21/12/22 the Cambridge City IRP met with Cllr Anna Smith via Teams and, as a result, we are cognisant of the huge increase in workload she has undertaken in stepping up to fill the role of Mayor of the Combined Authority while the elected Mayor has taken leave on health reasons.*

*We understand that this situation will last for three and a half months (mid November 2022 to the beginning of March 2023).*

*We recognise that this is an emergency, as there is no mechanism within the Combined Authority to cover additional allowance for a Deputy Mayor undertaking the role of Mayor in their absence. It is our firm belief that this anomaly in their procedures should be swiftly reviewed.*

*We would like to be more generous but, we must bear in mind that any remuneration for Cllr Smith undertaking additional duties for the Combined Authority will, in this instance, be funded by Cambridge City Council. We recommend that she receive the remuneration of a Combined Authority Cabinet Member pro rata for three and a half months.*

*If the situation continues beyond 1st March 2023 this will have to be reviewed.”*