

7. REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT PANEL ON MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES FOR 2016/17

REPORT OF: SOLICITOR TO THE COUNCIL AND MONITORING OFFICER
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Wards Affected: All
Key Decision N/A
Report to: Council
16 December 2015

Purpose of Report

1. To present the attached report of the Independent Remuneration Panel on the review of Members' Allowances to be paid to Members of Mid Sussex District Council in 2016/17.

Recommendations

2. **Council is recommended to:**
 - (i) thank the Panel for their work;
 - (ii) consider the recommendations of the Panel, summarised below, and
 - (iii) agree a scheme of allowances for the financial year 2016/17.
3. **Summary of Recommendations**

The Panel's recommendations for Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances are summarised in the table below (rounded to the nearest whole pound).

Role	Current Allowance (£):	Recommended Allowance (£):
Basic Allowance	4,501	4,620 with 2.5% increase per annum
Leader's Allowance	20,596	No change
Cabinet Member	8,238	No change
Chairman of the Council	6,572	No change
Vice-Chairman of Council	2,251	No change
3x Planning Cttee Chairmen	13,503 (4,501 x3)	13,860 with 2.5% increase per annum (4,620 x3)
3x Planning Cttee Vice-Chairmen	Nil	3,450 (1,150 x 3) Subject to annual review
Licensing Committee Chairman	977	475
Standards Committee Chairman	475	No change
Group Leader	Group Leader Allowance of 75% of 1/54 of the Leader of the Council's Allowance per Group	No change
3x Scrutiny Cttee Chairmen	11,586	No change
Audit Committee Chairman	1,930	No change

2x Independent Persons for Standards Matters	1,426 (713 x 2)	No change
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The Panel recommends that Members should only be entitled to claim one Special Responsibility Allowance, with the exception of allowances paid to Group Leaders.

4. Travelling and Subsistence Allowance

The Panel recommends no change for the mileage allowances as these are in line with HMRC regulation. The Panel recommends that the Subsistence Rates be rounded to the nearest whole pound.

Detail	Recommended Rate
Vehicles	
Car Mileage	45p per mile
Car Passenger Mileage Rate	3p per mile for 1 passenger 5p per mile for 2 or more passengers
Cycling Allowance	20p per mile
Subsistence	
Breakfast	£7.00
Lunch	£10.00
Tea	£4.00
Evening Meal	£12.00
Overnight Out of Pocket Expenses Per night	£6.00
Overnight Out of Pocket Expenses Per week	£22.00

5. Childcare and Dependent Carer's Allowances

5.1. Childcare Allowance

The Panel felt that this allowance should remain linked to the national living wage rate of £7.85 per hour and that the rate for two or more children be raised to £15 per hour.

5.2. Dependent Carer's Allowance

The Panel agreed that the existing payment of receipt-based actual costs, up to a maximum rate of £15 per hour remained appropriate.

Background

- The Local Government Act 2000 requires local authorities to set their schemes of allowance on an annual basis after taking into account the recommendations of an independent panel.
- The Mid Sussex Independent Remuneration Panel undertook its review of Members' allowances between September and November 2015 and its report is appended below.

8. Anthony Cox, Chairman of the Panel, will attend Council to present the report and respond to any questions from Members.

Financial Implications

9. The proposed allowances will result in an increase to the Member Allowances Budget of £9,731 for 2016/17.

Appendices

- Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel on Members' Allowances for 2015/16.