

7. REVIEW OF MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES FOR 2018/19

REPORT OF: Head of Regulatory Services, Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer
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Wards Affected: All
Key Decision N/A
Report to: Council 13 December 2017

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 2018/19.

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 2018/19.

Summary of Recommendations

3. 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	4,736	4,878 3% increase
Leader's Allowance	20,596	No change
Deputy Leader's Allowance	2,000 in addition to Cabinet Member's Allowance	11,000 An increase from 2,000 in 2017/18 to 2,500 and merged with Cabinet Member's Allowance
Cabinet Member	8,238	8,500 3% increase
Chairman of the Council	6,572	No change
Vice-Chairman of Council	2,251	No change
3x Planning Committee Chairman	14,208 (4,736 x 3)	14,634 (4,878 x 3) 3% increase
3x Planning Committee Vice-Chairman	3,552 (1,184 x 3)	3,660 (1,220 x 3) Increase to continue to reflect 25% of Planning Chairman's allowance
Licensing Committee Chairman	475	No change
Standards Committee Chairman	475	No change

Group Leader	250 per group member	No change
3x Scrutiny Committee Chairman	11,586 (3,862 x 3)	11,706 (3,902 x 3)
3x Scrutiny Committee Vice - Chairman	-	2,928 (976 x 3) New allowance: 25% of Scrutiny Chairman's allowance
Audit Committee Chairman	1,930	2,000
2x Independent Persons for Standards Matters	1,426 (713 x 2)	No change

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. Deputy Leader's Allowance

Following the introduction of an allowance of £2,000 last year for the Deputy Leader, the Panel notes that in light of the increased workload, an increase to £2,500 a year is appropriate. This is to be added to the Cabinet Member's Allowance and merged accordingly to reflect that the Deputy Leader would inevitably be a Cabinet Member.

5. Cabinet Member's Allowance

The Panel noted that within District Councils in West Sussex the allowance paid to Cabinet Members was significantly at the upper end of the range, however they acknowledged that whilst the Constitution allowed for up to nine Members there were only six in post creating a significant additional workload. Therefore the Panel recommends an increase in the Cabinet Members allowance of 3% taking the allowance to £8,500.

6. Chairman and Vice Chairman of Scrutiny Committees

The Panel recommends an increase to the Chairman's allowance linked to 80% of the allowance for Planning Committee Chairman, therefore raising it to £3,902 per year. They also recommend the introduction of a Vice Chairman's allowance at 25% of the amount paid to the Chairman, which equates to £976 per year.

7. Chair of Audit Committee

The Panel recommends an increase to £2,000 per year to reflect the level of detail that the meetings involve.

8. Travelling and Subsistence Allowance

The Panel recommends no change for the mileage allowances as these are in line with HMRC. In July 2017 HMRC increased the recommended levels of subsistence rates and the Panel therefore recommends that the Subsistence Rates be amended to reflect this increase, 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	£13.00
Overnight Out of Pocket Expenses Per night	£6.00
Overnight Out of Pocket Expenses Per week	£24.00

9. **Childcare and Dependent Carer's Allowances**

9.1 **Childcare Allowance**

The Panel recommend that this allowance should remain linked to the national living wage rate of £8.75 per hour and that the rate for two or more children be increased by £1 to £17 per hour.

9.2 **Dependent Carer's Allowance**

The Panel agreed that the existing payment of receipt-based actual costs, up to a maximum rate of £17 per hour is appropriate representing an increase of £1 per hour on 2017/18 rates.

10. **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 2017 and its report is appended below.

11. **Financial Implications**

The proposed allowances will result in an increase to the Member Allowances Budget of £13,144 of which £2,928 represents the re-introduction of one allowance. This would be an increase of 3.43% overall of which 2.67% relates to increases in existing allowances.

12. **Appendices**

- Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel on Members' Allowances for 2018/19.