

9. REVIEW OF MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES FOR 2017/18

REPORT OF: Head of Regulatory Services, Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer
Contact Officer: Mark Bristow, Senior Democratic Services Officer
Email: mark.brisrow@midsussex.gov.uk Tel: 01444 477111
Wards Affected: All
Key Decision N/A
Report to: Council 14 December 2016

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 2017/18.

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 2017/18.
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	4,620	4,736 with 2.5% increase per annum
Leader's Allowance	20,596	No change
Deputy Leader's Allowance	-	2,000 per annum to be paid in addition to Cabinet Member's Allowance
Cabinet Member	8,238	No change
Chairman of the Council	6,572	No change
Vice-Chairman of Council	2,251	No change
3x Planning Committee Chairman	13,860 (4,620 x3)	14,208 with 2.5% increase per annum (4,736 x3)
3x Planning Committee Vice-Chairman	3,450 (1,150 x 3) Subject to annual review	3,552 (1,184 x 3) Subject to annual review
Licensing Committee Chairman	475	No change
Standards Committee Chairman	475	No change
Group Leader	Group Leader Allowance	250 per group member

	of 75% of 1/54 of the Leader of the Council's Allowance per Group	
3x Scrutiny Committee Chairman	11,586 (3862 x3)	No change
Audit Committee Chairman	1,930	No change
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 the Deputy Leader and Group Leaders.

4. **Deputy Leader's Allowance**

The Panel recommends the introduction of a Deputy Leader's Allowance of £2,000 which is to be paid in addition to a Cabinet Members Allowance. This is in recognition of an increased workload and replaces an informal allowance given from the Leader's Allowance.

5. **Group Leader Allowance**

The Panel considered the formula used to calculate the Group Leader Allowance in detail and recommend that the formula be made simpler. A sum of £250 per Member is proposed.

6. **Travelling and Subsistence Allowance**

The Panel recommends no change for the mileage allowances as these are in line with HMRC. 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

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

7.1. **Childcare Allowance**

The Panel recommend that this allowance should remain linked to the national living wage rate of £8.45 per hour and that the rate for two or more children be increased by £1 to £16 per hour.

7.2. Dependent Carer's Allowance

The Panel agreed that the existing payment of receipt-based actual costs, up to a maximum rate of £16 per hour is appropriate representing an increase of £1 per hour on 2016/17 rates.

Background

8. 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.
9. The Mid Sussex Independent Remuneration Panel undertook its review of Members' allowances between September and November 2016 and its report is appended below.

Financial Implications

10. The proposed allowances will result in an increase to the Member Allowances Budget of £6,694 for 2017/18 representing a 1.78% increase.

Appendices

- Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel on Members' Allowances for 2017/18.