

REVIEW OF MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES FOR 2022/2023

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 - 8 December 2021

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 2022/2023.

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 2022/2023.

Summary of Recommendations

3. The Panel's recommendations for Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances are summarised in the table below.

Role	Current Allowance (£):	Recommended Allowance (£):
Basic Allowance	5,100	5,200
Leader's Allowance	20,596	20,800
Deputy Leader's Allowance	11,000	No change
Cabinet Member	8,500	No change
Chairman of the Council	6,750	6,760
Vice-Chairman of Council	2,250	2,253
2x Planning Committee Chairman	12,750 (6,375 x 2)	13,000 (6,500 x 2)
2x Planning Committee Vice-Chairman	3,188 (1,594 x 2) 25% of Planning Chairman's allowance	3,250 (1,625 x 2) 25% of Planning Chairman's allowance
Licensing Committee Chairman	1,020	1,040
Standards Committee Chairman	1,020	1,040
Group Leader	250 per group member	No change
3x Scrutiny Committee Chairman	12,240 (4,080 x 3)	12,480 (4,160 x 3)

3x Scrutiny Committee Vice - Chairman	3,060 (1,020 x 3) 25% of Scrutiny Chairman's allowance	3,120 (1,040 x 3) 25% of Scrutiny Chairman's allowance
Audit Committee Chairman	3,060	3,120
3x Independent Persons for Standards Matters	2,250 (750 x 3)	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. **Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances**

In light of data from other councils in West Sussex, the ongoing negotiations concerning pay awards for those employed within local government and the fact that allowances had been frozen in the current year, the Panel makes a recommendation to increase the Basic Allowance to £5,200 (an increase of £100).

With regards to Special Responsibility Allowances, in line with past recommendations the Panel recommends a linkage between the Basic Allowance and the Allowances paid to the Leader, Deputy Leader, Cabinet Members and Chairman as detailed below.

5. **Leader, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member's Allowance**

The Panel considered the allowance paid to the Leader, in comparison with the average paid within West Sussex and acknowledged that the allowance in Mid Sussex was significantly higher. Noting that the role is extensive and carries significant responsibility the Panel recommends that the allowance be set at 4 times the Basic Allowance.

The Deputy Leader Allowance is recommended to be set at 2 times the Basic Allowance but that the current rate be protected until such time as further changes to the Basic Allowance make this unnecessary or until the next election when roles may change.

Cabinet Member Allowances are recommended to be set at 1.6 times the Basic Allowance and that the current rate be protected until such time as further changes to the Basic Allowance make this unnecessary or until the next election when roles may change.

6. **Chairman's Allowance**

Acknowledging that the current rate is appropriate, the Chairman's Allowance is recommended to be set at 1.3 times the Basic Allowance.

7. **Travelling and Subsistence Allowance**

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

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

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

8.1 **Childcare Allowance**

The Panel recommend that this allowance should remain linked to the Real Living Wage rate of £9.90. Therefore payment will be on receipt-based actual costs up to a maximum rate of £10 per hour for one child, or a maximum of £20 per hour for two or more children.

8.2 **Dependent Carer's Allowance**

In line with the Childcare Allowance increase, the Panel agreed that payment of receipt-based actual costs, up to a maximum rate of £20 per hour is appropriate.

9. **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 2021 and its report is appended below.

Members are not obliged to take the allowance.

10. **Financial Implications**

The additional costs of the recommendations are £6,329 a year of which £5,400 represents the proposed increase in the Basic Allowance.

11. **Sustainability Implications**

None.

12. **Appendices**

- Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel on Members' Allowances for 2022/2023.