

## REVIEW OF MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES FOR 2019/2020

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 - 12 December 2018

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### 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 2019/20.

### 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 2019/20.

### 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	4,878	5,000 2.5% increase
Leader's Allowance	20,596	No change
Deputy Leader's Allowance	11,000	No change
Cabinet Member	8,500	No change
Chairman of the Council	6,572	No change
Vice-Chairman of Council	2,251	No change
3x Planning Committee Chairman	14,634 (4,878 x3)	15,000 (5,000 x3) 2.5% increase
3x Planning Committee Vice-Chairman	3,660 (1,220 x 3)	3,750 (1,250 x 3) Increase to continue to reflect 25% of Planning Chairman's allowance
Licensing Committee Chairman	475	1,000
Standards Committee Chairman	475	1,000
Group Leader	250 per group member	No change
3x Scrutiny Committee	11,706	12,000

Chairman	(3,902 x3)	(4,000 x 3)
3x Scrutiny Committee Vice - Chairman	2,928 (3 x 976)	3,000 (1,000 x 3) Increase to continue to reflect 25% of Scrutiny Chairman's allowance
Audit Committee Chairman	2,000	No Change
2x Independent Persons for Standards Matters	1,426 (713 x 2)	1,500 (2 x 750)

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**

Having met with the Leader and Deputy Leader, the Panel recommends that the current allowances remain the same.

**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 seven in post creating a significant additional workload.

The Panel noted that there had been an additional Cabinet post created which adds an extra £8,500 to the annual cost of Special Responsibility Allowances. However, the creation or abolition of such posts is not a matter for the Panel and the event is simply noted.

**6. Chairs of Licensing Committee and Standards Committee**

The Panel noted that the work of the Licensing Committee had increased as greater scrutiny was being applied to the licensing of taxis within the District. Equally they noted the importance of the work of the Standards Committee in ensuring openness and accountability within the Council. The Panel noted that the allowances paid to these two posts were small amounts and did not reflect the current work involved. Accordingly the Panel recommends that both be increased from £475 a year to £1,000 a year.

**7. Independent Persons for Standards Matters**

The Panel noted that the sum paid was minor and had not changed for many years whilst the work involved had become more complex. Therefore they recommended it be increased from £713 a year to £750 a year.

**8. Travelling and Subsistence Allowance**

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

Detail	Recommended Rate
<b>Vehicles</b>	
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
<b>Subsistence</b>	
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 real living wage rate of £9.00 per hour and that the rate for two or more children be increased by £1 to £18 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 £18 per hour is appropriate representing an increase of £1 per hour on 2018/19 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 October and November 2018 and its report is appended below.

## 11. **Financial Implications**

The proposed allowances will result in an increase to the Member Allowances Budget of £8,534 which does not include the cost of the allowance paid to an additional member of the Cabinet. This would be an increase of 2.35% to the annual budget compared to the current year.

## 12. **Appendices**

- Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel on Members' Allowances for 2019/20.