



OFFICER REPORT TO COUNCIL

MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES ANNUAL ADJUSTMENT

KEY ISSUE/DECISION:

To agree the annual adjustment to Members' Allowances for the financial year 2023-2024.

BACKGROUND:

At its meeting on 7 July 2020, the Council amended its Members' Allowances Scheme in accordance with recommendations presented in the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP).

The new scheme made provision for an annual adjustment of allowances on 1 April, with reference to the previous September's Consumer Price Index (CPI). This is in accordance with Regulation 10(4) of The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003.

In September 2022 the CPI increase was 8.8%.

The Council recognises the spirit with which the IRP recommendation to raise Members' Allowances in line with CPI was made, however it could not be foreseen at that time that it would rise by such a significant amount.

This report proposes approving a lower adjustment of 3% (increase).

IMPACT OF INCREASES ON MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

Table 1 summarises the impact that both 3% and 8.8% increases will have on each available allowance.

Individual Allowances			
Allowance	2022-23	+3% with rounding (up to nearest £10)	+CPI 8.8% with rounding (up to nearest £10)
Basic Allowance	£13,120	£13,520	£14,280
Leader	£45,410	£46,780	£49,410
Deputy Leader	£29,430	£30,320	£32,020
Chair of Council	£19,020	£19,600	£20,700
Vice-Chair of Council	£6,870	£7,080	£7,480
Cabinet Member	£23,760	£24,480	£25,860
Deputy Cab Member	£10,540	£10,860	£11,470
Select Cttee Chairman	£10,570	£10,890	£11,510
P&R Cttee Chairman	£12,680	£13,070	£13,800
A&G Cttee Chairman	£10,570	£10,890	£11,510
Surrey Pension Fund Ch	£10,570	£10,890	£11,510
LC JC Chairmen	£8,460	Allowance removed	
SC Task Group Leads	£1,590	£1,640	£1,730
Opposition Leaders	£12,680	£13,070	£13,800
Adoption & Fostering	£106	£110	£120

Table 1: Individual Allowances Increases

Tables 2 (3%) and 3 (8.8%) illustrates the total budget required across all allowances and compares them to the 2022-23 total.

+3% Total across all appointments			
	2022-23	2023-24	Increase/decrease
Basic allowance	£1,062,720	£1,095,120	£32,400
Special Responsibility Allowances	£551,290	£472,140	-£79,150
Total	£1,614,010	£1,567,260	-£46,750

Table 2: 3% Increase

+8.8% Total across all appointments			
	2022-23	2023-24	Increase/decrease
Basic allowance	£1,062,720	£1,156,680	£93,960
Special Responsibility Allowances	£551,290	£498,730	-£52,560
Total	£1,614,010	£1,655,410	£41,400

Table 3: 8.8% Increase

REDUCTION IN SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES AVAILABLE:

At its meeting in October 2022, the Council approved the ceasing of the Local Committees and served notice of the Council's intention to withdraw from the Joint Committees. The removal of these appointments are included within Tables 2 and 3.

ALIGNMENT WITH THE CURRENT MEMBERS ALLOWANCES SCHEME:

In accordance with regulation 19 of The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003, local authorities have a duty to have regard to recommendations from an IRP before a scheme can be amended.

The Director of Law & Governance has confirmed that this does not constitute a change to the current Members' Allowances scheme requiring a report from the IRP.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that the County Council:

1. Approves the proposed 3% increase in Members' Allowances for the 2023 - 2024 financial year.

Lead/Contact Officers:

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Sources/background papers:

[The Local Authorities \(Members' Allowances\) \(England\) Regulations 2003](#)

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