



OFFICER REPORT TO COUNCIL

REVIEW OF MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES FOR 2024 - 2025 – REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

KEY ISSUE/DECISION:

County Council is invited to consider the Independent Remuneration Panel's report on the review of Members' Allowances for 2024 - 25 and the Panel's resulting recommendations.

BACKGROUND:

1. This report provides the Council with the recommendations from the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) as prepared under the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) Regulations 2003.
2. The Panel's report is attached at Annex A. A summary of the recommendations within the report are set out below.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Relating to the Basic Allowance

1. That the Council continues with the 2020 recommendation of linking the basic allowance to the CPI. This should be adjusted on the 1st of April each year.
2. That the increase in basic allowance is capped at the level of the average staff salary increase if this is lower than the CPI.

Relating to Special Responsibility Allowances

3. That the Council continues with the 2020 recommendation of linking any increase to SRAs to the CPI. This should be adjusted on the 1st of April each year.
4. That the increase in SRAs is capped at the average level of the staff salary increase if this is lower than the CPI.

Relating to Inclusivity

5. That the Council conducts an audit of its meeting schedule with a specific focus on mandatory in-person attendance and any need for the meeting to be during the working day or on a particular day.
6. That the Council considers lobbying Central Government to reinstate the right to vote remotely, as was utilised during the COVID pandemic.

Relating to Expenses and food provision

7. That the Council retains its existing subsistence and expenses framework including the provision of a lunch for appropriate meetings.

Relating to Hybrid Working

8. That the council provides a one-off payment to members for bespoke IT solutions. The payment would be to cover a four year term of office but would not be repeated should the member be re-elected.
9. That the payment be in the range of £200-£300.

Lead/Contact Officers:

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Sources/background papers:

[The Local Authorities \(Members' Allowances\) \(England\) Regulations 2003 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk)

Annexes/Appendices:

Annex A - Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel
