



Council

23 January 2017

## MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES FOR CIVIC YEAR 2017-18

Report by:

Monitoring Officer

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Purpose / Summary:

To review and agree the Recommendations made by the Independent Remuneration Panel with regard to members allowances for 2017-2018 civic year.

### RECOMMENDATION(S):

That Members approve the new rates as shown within this Report (page 4), with regard to Members' Allowances for the Civic Year 2017 – 2018 by

- a) Agreeing to the increase of £120 p/a for the Basic Allowance
- b) Agree the proposed changes to SRAs
- c) Agree to restore parity between the Deputy Leader and the Leader of the Opposition.

**IMPLICATIONS**

**Legal: None**

**Financial : FIN/113/17**  
**The proposed increase will result in an additional budget requirement of £6,653 which will be built into the 2017/18 base budget and Medium Term Financial Plan.**

**Staffing :None**

**Equality and Diversity including Human Rights : None**

**Risk Assessment : None**

**Climate Related Risks and Opportunities :None**

**Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:**  
None

**Call in and Urgency:**

**Is the decision one which Rule 14.7 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?**

i.e. is the report exempt from being called in due to urgency (in consultation with C&I chairman)

**Yes**

**No**

**Key Decision:**

A matter which affects two or more wards, or has significant financial implications

**Yes**

**No**

## **1. Background**

- 1.1 West Lindsey District Council's Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP), has carried out a review of the Council's Scheme of Members' Allowances.
  - 1.2 To inform the review, the Panel has considered a number of factors, including figures paid by neighbouring and comparative authorities. Details of these are attached at Appendix 2. The evidence reviewed by the Panel indicates that the current Scheme of Allowances is robust and there is general agreement that, the Scheme is transparent, simple to administer and easily understood.
  - 1.3 The Panel also received details of the Council's budget situation from the Strategic Lead for Democracy and Business Support.
  - 1.4 The Panel consulted with all Members providing the opportunity to comment via email with a Questionnaire; and also offered appointments to meet with the Panel. Members of the Governance & Audit Committee were also consulted on 8 November 2016.
  - 1.5 On 13 September 2016, five Members met with the Panel to give their views. All comments made by the Members during the discussions and also completed Questionnaires received, have been taken into account by the Panel when arriving at their final recommendations in this Report.
  - 1.6 Whilst mindful of the need for caution in increasing allowances, the Panel are well aware of the dangers of remuneration failing to adequately compensate for the role. The Panel felt that they must also consider the pay rises for staff in order to avoid any feeling on inequality. The Panel recommend an increase of £120 p/a to the basic allowance – making this £5,400 p/a.
  - 1.7 The review highlighted a disparity in remuneration between the Deputy Leader of Council and the Leader of the Opposition. The Panel recommend to Council to both restore and maintain parity with the Deputy Leader of Council SRA and to this end, advise an increase in the SRA for the Leader of the Opposition.
  - 1.8 The Panel recommend the increases as appearing on page 4, (table on Appendix 1 gives further detail).
  - 1.9 The Panel would like to record its thanks to those Members and Officers who made themselves available to talk to the Panel.
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## 2 Panel Recommendations

### 2.1 Basic Allowance

The Panel were firmly of the view that a £120 p/a increase in Basic Allowance was totally justifiable. The recommended rate is therefore £5400.00 for the year 2017/18

### 2.2 SRA – Special Responsibility Allowances – Recommended rates

		New Rate	Currently
A	Basic Allowance	£5,400	£5,280
B	SRA - Leader of Council	£12,000	£11,747
C	SRA – Deputy Leader/s (in the event of two or more being nominated, the payment to be shared)	£4,350	£4,237
D	SRA -Chair of Council	£3,840	£3,737
E	SRA – Vice-Chair of Council	£1,320	£1,282
F	Civic Allowance for the Chairman of Council	£1,550	£1,500
G	Civic Allowance for the Vice-Chairman of Council	£420	£400
H	SRA – Committee Chairs	£3,000	£2,919
I	SRA – Committee Vice-Chairs	£1,420	£1,382
J	SRA – Chair of Taxi & General Sub-Committee	£1,320	£1,282
K	SRA – Leader of the Opposition (in the event of the Council being a ‘hung’ Council, the Leaders of the two largest groups be paid	£4,350	£3,737

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the same special responsibility allowance as for the Leader of the Opposition)

L	SRA – Deputy Leader of the Opposition	£790	£769
M	SRA – Minority Group Leaders (per group member, and including the Group Leader)	£90	£85
N	Co-optees' Allowance – A payment of £60.00 for the first four hours of attendance at a meeting/event and a second payment for attendance in excess of four hours. The first four hours would commence from the start time of the meeting (To be paid when not chairing a meeting).	£60	£50

No change to the allowances for Dependent Carers or travel allowances. The Panel noted and commented that travel allowances are currently in line with the tax efficient rate authorised by the Inland Revenue.

Subsistence – No change (Receipts must be provided for subsistence claimed and attached to the claim form).

- a. Absence of more than four hours but no more than eight hours – only the cost of one meal can be reimbursed up to a maximum of £15.
  - b. Absence of more than eight hours but no more than 12 hours – only the cost of two meals can be reimbursed up to a maximum of £25.
  - c. Absence of more than 12 hours but no more than 16 hours – only the cost of three meals can be reimbursed up to a maximum of £33.
  - d. Absence of more than 16 hours but not including an overnight stay – only the cost of four meals can be reimbursed up to a maximum of £40.
  - e. Overnight – No Change – £83
  - f. Overnight (London or LGA) – No Change – £208
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**SRA – Special Responsibility Allowances  
Recommended SRAs for Civic Year 2017/2018**

	Currently £	Recommended Increase per annum £	Equating to a weekly amount of: £
Basic allowance per Member	5280	120	<b>2.31</b>
Leader of Council	11747	253	<b>4.87</b>
Deputy Leader of Council	4237	113	<b>2.17</b>
Chair of Council	3737	103	<b>1.98</b>
Vice Chair of Council	1282	38	<b>0.73</b>
Civic Allowance for Chairman of Council	1500	50	<b>0.96</b>
Civic Allowance for Vice Chairman of Council	400	20	<b>0.38</b>
Committee Chairs	2919	81	<b>1.56</b>
Committee Vice Chairs	1382	38	<b>0.73</b>
Chair Taxi & General Sub	1282	38	<b>0.73</b>
Leader of Opposition	3737	613	<b>11.79</b>
Deputy Leader of Opposition	769	21	<b>0.40</b>
Minority Group Leaders (per group Member including the Group Leader)	85	5	<b>0.096</b>
Governance & Audit Independent Members	50	10	<b>0.19</b>
Co-optee Allowance per meeting	50	10	<b>0.19</b>

## Appendix 2

### Comparison with other 4<sup>th</sup> Option Authorities

	WLDC	Craven	Tandridge	Corby	Melton Mowbray	East Cambs	Runnymede	Sth Derbys
Basic	5280	4300	4068	4160	4617	4219	3215	5982
Leader	11747	8170	2885	12480	12283	5088	6430	17940
Dep Leader	4237	4300	1443	6240	3464	1697	1608	9860
Ch Planning	2919	2150	2885	2080	3464	2543	5626	8960
VC Planning	1382		1443	Nil	1156	1271	3751	2240
Ch OSP	2919		2885	2080	3464	2543	3215	8960
VC OSP	1382		1443	Nil	1156	636	1608	2240
Ch Licensing	2919			2080	3464	1727	3215	2240
VC Licensing	1382			Nil	1156	431	1608	
Ch Audit	2919		2885	2080	3464	2543	1061	
VC Audit	1382		1443	Nil	1156	636	402	
Chair Council	3737	3440	2885			3595	3215 Mayor	
VC Council	1282	430	1443			961	1608 Dep M	
Civic Chair Council	1500							
Civic VC Council	400							
Leader of Oppo	3737			2080		1697	2152	
Dep Leader Oppo	769							
Co-optees	50 per mtg				462 pa	250 pa	402 pa	1116 pa
Comments	2016	Still 2015 figures, but under review	May 2016	July 2015	Oct 2015	Jan 2016	Apl 2016	Still 2012/13 figures

Drawn up May 2016