

Report to: Council



Date of Meeting 16 July 2025

Document classification: Part A Public Document

Exemption applied: None

Review date for release N/A

Report and Recommendations from the Independent Remuneration Panel – June 2025

Report summary:

This report outlines the recommendations from the Independent Remuneration Panel following their review of the Councillor Scheme of Allowances, Parish/Town Council Scheme of Allowances and a review of Special Responsibility Allowances.

The Independent Remuneration Panel has met on several occasions to undertake a review of various parts of the allowances claimable by councillors and to review the Scheme of Allowances for Councillors at East Devon and the Parish/Town Scheme of Allowances which had not been reviewed for some time.

The full report from the Independent Remuneration Panel is attached as Appendix 1 to this report and sets out the Panels recommendations.

Is the proposed decision in accordance with:

Budget Yes ☐ No ☒

Policy Framework Yes ☒ No ☐

Recommendation:

That Council:

1. adopt the revised Councillors Allowance Scheme (attached as Appendix 2).
2. Approve that a parish basic allowance should be available to all parish chairs and members in accordance with the Panels recommendations.
3. Approve that the HMRC agreed travel rates for parish members should continue to be aligned to those of East Devon District Council staff and members.
4. approve that where it is considered necessary by the Council to introduce assistants within portfolio areas the level of remuneration should be set at 25% of the Basic Allowance (£1,347.87). To be backdated to 1 June 2025.
5. approve that where it is considered necessary by the Council to nominate Champions the level of remuneration should be set at 15% of the Basic Allowance (£808.73). To be backdated to 1 June 2025.
6. Approve that the Vice Chair of the Licensing and Enforcement Committee SRA is paid at 50% of the Licensing and Enforcement Committee Chairs allowance (£1,754.28). To be backdated to 1 June 2025.
7. Approves that the Independent Person appointed to the Audit and Governance Committee is paid an annual SRA of £400. To be backdated to 1 June 2025.
8. adopts the same approach for council and parish members as that applied to employees, for Family Friendly Policies (incorporating maternity, paternity, shared parental and adoption leave) and to include reference to these policies in the Councillor Scheme of Allowances for East Devon District Council.

Reason for recommendation:

It is important that the Scheme of Allowances for Councillors and Parish/Town Councillors is reviewed to ensure that it remains fit for purpose and reflect best practice.

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Portfolio(s) (check which apply):

- ☐ Environment Nature & Climate
- ☐ Environment Operations
- ☒ Council, Corporate Co-ordination & External Engagement
- ☒ Communications and Democracy
- ☐ Economy and Assets
- ☐ Finance
- ☐ Place, Infrastructure & Strategic Planning
- ☐ Sustainable Homes and Communities
- ☐ Culture, Leisure, Sport and Tourism

Equalities impact Low Impact

Public authorities are required to have due regard to the aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty (Equality Act 2010) when making decisions and setting policies. While there are no specific equalities implications arising from this report, it is important that the allowances claimable are reviewed regularly.

Climate change Low Impact

Whilst an impact assessment has not been undertaken, it is considered that there are no climate change implications associated with this report.

Risk: Low Risk; It is important that the Council maintains an Independent Remuneration Panel to provide impartial and independent advice regarding the Members' Allowance Scheme.

Links to background information None.

Link to [Council Plan](#)

Priorities (check which apply)

- ☒ A supported and engaged community
- ☒ Carbon neutrality and ecological recovery
- ☒ Resilient economy that supports local business
- ☒ Financially secure and improving quality of services

Report in full

The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 require the district council to establish and maintain an Independent Remuneration Panel, and to have regard to the recommendations of the panel before making or amending the Members' Allowance Scheme.

The Panels report which is appended to this report sets out in full their consideration of a number of areas in respect of councillor allowances.

Financial implications:

The financial implications are detailed within the report, total cost of the recommendations amounts to £12,398 that will require funding in the current financial year and built into future budgets.

Legal implications:

In accordance with the Local Government Act 2003 and the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003, the Council is required to appoint an Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) to report and make recommendations on Members Allowances and this appointment supports this.