

MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME REVIEWED

East Riding of Yorkshire Council has received the report of its Independent Remuneration Panel on its Members' Allowance Scheme, which will be considered by the Council on 16 May 2019. The report contains the following recommendations:

Basic Allowance

- That the amount of Basic Allowance including the IT allowance be maintained and indexation applied at the National Joint Council (NJC) for Local Government Services officers' national pay award from April 2020.

Basic Allowance

All Members (per annum)	£11,732
IT Initial	£ 384
IT Maintenance (per annum)	£ 136

Special Responsibility Allowances (per annum)

Leader of the Council and Leader of the Majority Group £37,777

Deputy Leader of the Council and Deputy Leader of the Majority Group £18,888

Other Cabinet Members £15,252

Leader of the Main Opposition Group £7,039

Overview and Scrutiny, Overview Management Committee, Planning and Review Panel Chairmen £10,089

Overview and Scrutiny, Overview Management Committee and Planning Vice Chairmen £2,464

Area Planning Sub Committee Chairmen £5,866

Licensing, Licensing Act 2003, Pensions and Audit Committee Chairmen £3,871

- That the Leader of the Council's allowance be amended to reflect a multiple of 3.22 of the Basic Allowance.
- That the Deputy Leader of the Council's allowance be reduced to reflect a multiple of 1.61 of the Basic Allowance.
- That the allowance relating to Cabinet Members be amended to reflect a multiple of 1.3 of the Basic Allowance
- That the Leader of the Opposition Group allowance be increased to reflect of 0.6 of the Basic Allowance.
- That the Chairmen of Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Sub-Committees, Planning Committee and Review Panels allowance be amended to reflect a multiple of 0.86 of the Basic Allowance.
- That the Chairmen of Area Planning Committees allowance be increased to reflect a multiple of 0.5 of the Basic Allowance.
- That the Chairmen of Licensing, Licensing Act 2003, Pensions and Audit Committees allowance be amended to reflect 0.33 of the Basic Allowance.
- That the allowance for Vice-Chairmen of Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Sub-Committees and Planning Committee be amended to reflect 0.21 of the Basic Allowance.
- That the allowance for the Chairman of the Staff Terms and Conditions Committee be removed from the Members' Allowances Scheme.

Group Officer Allowances

- That the Group Officer Supplements be included as part of the Special Responsibility allowances element of the Scheme and be renamed Group Officer Allowances.
- That the overall budget relating to Group Officer Allowances be amended to reflect a multiple of 1.5 of the Basic Allowance (calculation basic allowance | 1732 x 1.5 = 17398 ÷ 67 x number of members in a group)

- That the Group Officer Allowance be paid where there are six or more councillors in a group, as per the existing Members' Allowances Scheme.
- That the Group Officer allowance be paid to the Group Secretary of the Majority Group, Secretary of the Main Opposition Group and Group Leader and/or Group Secretary of an Opposition Groups, the allocation of monies be determined by the Group
- That a councillor continues to only receive one Special Responsibility Allowance, which would be the higher amount, as per the current Members' Allowances Scheme.

Co-optees Allowance

- That allowances for co-optees be maintained at £49.00 per meeting and the £82.00 for attending meetings over four hours be removed.

Dependent Carers' Allowances (per hour)

- That allowances for Dependent Carers' Allowances (childcare and dependent carers') be amended so that the same amount paid for both elements, is in line with the national minimum wage (£8.21).

Travelling and Subsistence Allowances

- That the current arrangements within the Scheme for travelling and subsistence be amended as follows:
 - Mileage rates – 45p up to 10,000 and 25p for additional miles thereafter be applied to all car users
 - Bicycle rate – increase to 20p per mile
 - Business user allowance – to be removed
 - Availability of the Assisted Car Purchase Scheme - to be removed
 - Criteria 5(f) shown in the Members' Allowances Scheme of the approved duties be amended to read 'Pre-arranged inter-political group meetings, with officers present, to which at least two groups are invited. (These meetings to be called by officers, 'after consultation and agreement of the groups,' to take place on Council premises, to have specific topics and attendance to be authenticated by an appropriate signed document)'
 - Subsistence allowances rates be maintained but only paid for duties carried out by Members outside the East Riding of Yorkshire.

Members' Allowance Scheme

- That the proposed changes be effective from 16 May 2019 and the revised Scheme revoke all previous Schemes on that date.

Indexation

- That the index for determining annual increases in Members' allowances be as follows:
 - Basic and IT allowances – in line with NJC officers' national pay award
 - Special Responsibility Allowances – in line with NJC officers' national pay award
 - Co-optees Allowance – in line with NJC officers' national pay award
 - Dependent Carers' Allowance – in line with national minimum/living wage
 - Travel allowances including bicycle rate – in line with HMRC rate
 - Subsistence – in line with NJC officers' national pay award

NB the NJC pay award for Local Government employees for the period 2019 to 2023

Copies of the Panel's report are available at County Hall, Beverley for inspection and purchase by members of the public during normal business hours or can be found on the Council's website.

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