

Meeting	Finance & Policy Committee
Date	21 st November 2023
Report Title	Councillor Allowances
Agenda Reference	10
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Officer's Recommendations:

1. To consider recommending to Full Council an uplift on Councillors' Allowances in 23-24 by 8.46% - aligned with the average staff cost of living pay rise. This equates to a new rate of £81.31 per month for Councillors (additional £6.34 on the existing rate of £74.97 per month) and £151.19 per month for the Chairman (additional £11.93 on the existing rate of £139.40 per month). Back pay to be applied from April 2023.
2. To consider recommending to Full Council a budget aspiration of £19,965.36 for 24/25 Councillor Allowances. This equates to a 8.5% increase resulting new rates of £1,058.64 per annum for a Councillor and £1,968.48 per annum for the Chairman.

Current Financial Year 2023-24

In November 2022 Council agreed to reject Swindon Borough Council (SBC) Independent Remuneration Panel's (IRP) recommended Councillor allowance for the 23/24 financial year. This is because their recommendation would have seen the Parish Council's Councillor Allowance budget increase significantly.

The NJC Cost of Living Pay Award for Council staff for 2023/24 has now been agreed at a blanket £1,925.00 on all pay scales up to SCP43 and 3.88% thereafter. To apply this to Councillors' allowances we have used the average staff pay rise of 8.46%. This will result in monthly payment for Councillors of £81.31 per month for Councillors (additional £6.34 on the existing rate of £74.97 per month) and £151.19 per month for the Chairman (additional £11.93 on the existing rate of £139.40 per month). Back pay to be applied from April 2023.

Total increase for 2023/24 is £1,056.12 as 13 Councillors including the Chairman currently take an allowance out of a possible total of 18 Councillors. Total expenditure for the year with this increase would be £14,498.64, total allocated budget for 2023/24 is £16,967.00. This leave leaves a surplus of £2,468.36 in the budget.

Financial Year 2024/25

Note that SBC's IRP has not yet published their recommended rates for 2024-25. However, going by the Council's trend to reject their recommendation, and instead to increase their allowances consistent with the staff NJC Cost of Living pay award, we have applied the 'best guesstimate' of an 8.5% increase. The result on allowances and budget is as follows:

16¹ Councillors £88.22pm or £1,058.64pa = £16,938.24 and
1 Chairman £164.04pm or £1,968.48pa

Total budget required £18,906.72 (Budget set in February 2023, £17,306.00)

¹ Total 17 elected members entitled to allowances.



Financial Impact 2024/25

Financial Year	Precept Demand	Net precept increase	Total resulting precept	% change	£ per BD Change	Notes
2024/25	1,160,238	1,600.72	1,161,839	0.14%	£0.18	Increased Cllr Allowances