

Meeting	Finance & Policy Committee
Date	19 th November 2024
Report Title	Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) Recommendations / Councillors Allowance 2025-26
Agenda Reference	12
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Officer's Recommendations:

1. To note the IRP report and Swindon Borough Council agreed to increase its Members Allowances by 5.58% from May 2024.
2. To consider the IRP Councillors Allowances recommendations at £1,888 per annum for Councillors and £3,776 per annum for the Chairman. The total cost would be £32,096.00 per annum (for all eligible allowances) - equivalent to £18,568.22 (1.40%, £2.07 per annum per band D household) on the precept. This is an increase of 110% on councillor allowances and 126% on for the Chairman's allowance.
3. To consider an uplift of 4.41% on Councillors Allowance in 2025-26 - this is aligned with the average staff cost of living pay rise. This equates to a new rate of £78.28 per month for Councillors and £145.55 per month for the Chairman. The total cost would be £15,837.00 per annum (for all eligible allowances). Equivalent to £2,309.22 (0.17%, £0.26 per annum per band D household) on the precept.
4. To consider freezing the existing Councillors Allowance for 2025-26. The total cost would be £15,167.40 per annum (for all eligible allowances). Equivalent to £1,639.62 (0.12%, £0.18 per annum per band D household) on the precept.
5. To consider removing all Councillors Allowance for 2025-26. This would result in -£13,528.00 (-1.02%, -£1.51 per annum per band D household) impact on the precept.
6. To consider continuing to budget for only those Members that are eligible and accept the councillor allowance payment, currently 13 of the 16 eligible Members. The total cost will remain at £12,469.00 if Council choose to freeze the allowance. Saving £1,058.78 (-0.08%, -£0.12 per annum per band D household) based on the three-year budget set in January 2024.

Historical Councillors Allowances

Haydon Wick Parish Council has historically rejected the IRP recommendations and for the past few years has either frozen their allowances or aligned them with the staff cost of living pay rise.

At Full Council on Tuesday 12th December 2023 (FC 157) members agreed to freeze Councillor Allowances for the current and next financial year ending March 2025 at £74.97 per month for Councillors and £139.40 per month for the Chairman.

The current rates of allowances are:

£899.64 per annum per Councillor (there are two co-opted Members who are ineligible and three Members that choose not to take an allowance).



£1,672.80 per annum for the Chairman.

With an annual budget of £13,528.00 for 2025/26 as per the three-year budget set in January 2024.

If the IRP recommendation was adopted this would see the budget increase significantly from £13,528.00 to £32,096.00, (£26,432.00 only accounting for allowances taken).

Financial Year 2025/26

Note that SBC's IRP has recommended rates for 2025-26, please see appendix.