

Meeting	Full Council
Date	22 nd November 2022
Report Title	Councillor Allowances
Agenda Reference	9A
Author	Georgina Morgan-Denn, Chief Officer/Clerk & RFO

Recommendations:

1. To note Councillors' Allowances in 22-23 will be uplifted by 7.67%. This equates to a new rate of £80.72 per month for Councillors (additional £5.75) and £150.09 for the Chairman (additional £10.69). Back pay to be applied since April 2022.
2. To consider Swindon Borough Council's IRP recommendation and agree to reject their recommendation. To include a budget aspiration of £19,182 for 23-24 Councillor Allowances - this equates to a 5% increase resulting in new rates of £1,017.12 per annum for a Councillor and £1,891.08 per annum for the Chairman.

Current Financial Year 2022-23

In November 2021 Council agreed to reject Swindon Borough Council (SBC) Independent Remuneration Panel's (IRP) recommended Councillor allowance for the 22-23 financial year. This is because their recommendation would have seen the Parish Council's Councillor Allowance budget increase from approximately £16k to over £30k. At the time it was agreed to increase allowances in line with the staff NJC Cost of Living Uplift, which was yet to be agreed, and likely to be in the region of 1.75% per annum. Minute reference FC 149.

The actual NJC Cost of Living Pay Award was blanket £1,925.00 on all pay scales. To apply this to Councillors' allowances we have used the average staff pay rise of 7.67%. This will result in monthly payment for Councillors of £80.72, which is £5.75 per month increase. The Chairman role will be increased to £150.09 per month, which is a £10.69 per month increase. Back pay will be applied since the start of financial year – April 2022.

Total increase on the budget will be an additional £1,025.28 as 14 Councillors, including the Chairman, take an allowance out of a possible total of 18 Councillors.

Financial Year 2023-24

SBC's IRP is attached for consideration. 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, a 'best guesstimate' of a 5% increase has been applied to arrive at 23/24 rates. The result on allowances and budget is as follows:

17 Councillors £84.76 pm or £1,017.12 pa = £17,291.04
1 Chairman £157.59 pm or £1,891.08 pa

Budget required - £19,182.12

Financial Impact

Net precept increase 2023/24	% change	£ per BD Change	Notes
£1,173	0.11%	£0.13	Councillor Allowances +5%

Climate Change Impact: There is no impact within the service delivery. The Council is developing its carbon footprint in line with its strategy. **Risk Assessment:** N/A.

Operational Considerations: None.