

Independent Remuneration Panel

Annual Report 2007/08

Wychavon District Council

December 2007

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Recommendations

The Independent Remuneration Panel recommends to Wychavon District Council the following (current amounts in brackets):

- (i) That a Basic Allowance of £4125 (£3,775) be paid for 2008/09;**
- (ii) That the following Special Responsibility Allowances be paid for 2008/09:**

Role	£
Leader of the Council	10312 9437
Executive Board Portfolio Holders	6188 5662
Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chairman	6188 5662
Planning Committee Chairman	6188 5662
Licensing Committee Chairman	1238 1132
Scrutiny Team Leaders	1031 943
Independent Standards Committee Chairman	1031 943
Group Leaders (per Member ¹)	86 84

- (iii) That travel and subsistence allowances for 2008/09 be paid in accordance with NJC rates for officers.**

¹ Paid at 50% if the Group Leader is in receipt of any other Special Responsibility Allowance

Basic Allowance 2008/09

Calculation of Basic Allowance

This is based on:

- The roles and responsibilities of Members; and
- Their time commitments – including the total average number of hours worked per week on Council business.

In calculating a recommended Basic Allowance, the Panel used the average hourly earnings in the West Midlands as per the National Earnings Survey (NES) for 2006 of £12.02 and the average time spent on Council business across the three Districts in South Worcestershire of 11 hours per week as taken from the evidence gathered previously (giving annualised hours of 572). The Panel does not consider that the figure for weekly average hours has seen any major variation. The public service discount² of 40% was applied to this figure giving a recommended Basic Allowance of £4,125 for 2008/09.

Special Responsibility Allowances 2008/09

General Calculation of SRAs

In the report for 2007/08 the Panel changed the basis for the calculation of SRAs to a multiplier of the Basic Allowance. This method is recommended in the Guidance published by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. The Panel has not received any evidence or representations to suggest that the multipliers recommended were unreasonable.

Appendix 1 to this report sets out current payments and those recommended for 2008/09.

Standards Committee Chairman

The Panel has met with the three Standards Committee Chairs of Malvern Hills, Worcester City and Wychavon District Councils and consider that changes in the legislation (local determination of complaints) may bring about a change in the work of the Standards Committee and the demands placed upon members and particularly the independent members which will need to be monitored by the Panel during 2008/09.

Mileage and Expenses 2008/09

The Panel recommends that mileage and other expenses should remain in line with NJC rates paid to officers (as recommended by the Panel previously). Other allowances, including the Dependent Carer's Allowance, remain the same.

The Independent Remuneration Panel

The Members' Allowances regulations require Local Authorities to establish and maintain an Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP). The purpose of the Panel is to make

² The Guidance on Regulation for Local Authority Allowances issued by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (July 2003) states that an element of the work of Members should continue to be voluntary and should therefore not be remunerated.

recommendations to the authority about allowances to be paid to Elected Members and local authorities must have regard to this advice. This Council's Independent Remuneration Panel is set up on a joint basis with Malvern Hills District Council, Wychavon District Council and Worcester City Council. Separate Annual reports have been prepared for each Council.

The Independent Remuneration Panel was first set up towards the end of 2001. Two of the five members were appointed for three years; two members were appointed for four years and one for a five-year period. This was done in order to stagger future appointments to the Panel in order to provide continuity in Panel membership. All new appointments or re-appointments to the Panel are made for a four-year term. During 2007 the Panel comprised:

- Mr. Michael Pilling, the Chair of the Panel
- Dr. Paul Jackson
- The Reverend Phillip Jones
- The Reverend Michael Vockins OBE
- Mr. Mel Nock OBE

The Panel has been advised and assisted by Steve Taylor from Worcester City Council, Sheena Jones from Wychavon District Council and Chris Watkins from Malvern Hills District Council. The Panel would wish to acknowledge its gratitude to these officers, who have provided advice and guidance in a professional and dedicated manner.

Michael Pilling

Chairman of Independent Remuneration Panel

Wychavon District Council – Allowance Recommendations 2008-09

Appendix 1

	2007/08 Recommendation	Multiplier of Basic Allowance	2008/09 Recommendation
Basic Allowance:	3,775		4,125 ³
Special Responsibility Allowances:			
Leader	9,347	2.5	10,312
Executive Board (with portfolio)	5,662	1.5	6,188
Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chairman	5,662	1.5	6,188
Planning Committee Chairman	5,662	1.5	6,188
Licensing Committee Chairman	1,132	0.3	1,238
Scrutiny Team Leaders	943	0.25	1031
Standards Committee Chairman	943	0.25	1031
Group Leader's SRA (Allowance x No. Cllrs in Group – reduces to £42 per head if Group Leader in receipt of another SRA)	84		86

³ This figure takes into account a public service discount of 40%