

Independent Remuneration Panel

Annual Report

Wychavon District Council

December 2008

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Recommendations

The Independent Remuneration Panel recommends to Wychavon District Council the following:

- (i) That a Basic Allowance of £4,200 be paid for 2009/10;
- (ii) That the following Special Responsibility Allowances be paid for 2009/10:

Role	£
Leader of the Council	10,500
Executive Board (with portfolio)	6,300
Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chairman	6,300
Planning Committee Chairman	6,300
Licensing Committee Chairman	1,260
Scrutiny Team Leaders	1,050
Independent Standards Committee Chairman	1,050
Group Leaders (per Member ¹)	88

- (iii) That travel and subsistence allowances for 2009/10 be paid in accordance with NJC rates for officers.
- (iv) That the Dependent Carer's Allowance remains the same at a maximum of £2,000 annually, subject to the existing conditions.

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

Basic Allowance 2009/10

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 the recommended Basic Allowance, the Panel used the average hourly earnings for the West Midlands from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (formerly the National Earnings Survey) for 2007 of £12.24 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 has again considered the figure for weekly average hours and whilst this may be considered to be on the low side, is of the opinion that as a guide and a base figure it does produce allowances which are comparable to national figures for allowances and other district councils in the County and, therefore, sees no reason to alter the basis of the calculation.

The public service discount² of 40% was applied to this figure giving a recommended Basic Allowance of £4,200 for 2009/10.

Special Responsibility Allowances 2009/10

General Calculation of SRAs

The basis for the calculation of SRAs is a multiplier of the Basic Allowance. This method is recommended in the Guidance published by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. This method has now been in use for two years and, having reviewed the multipliers, the Panel sees no reason to change them.

Appendix 1 to this report sets out current payments the Council is making and those recommended for 2009/10.

Standards Committee

In September 2007 the Panel met with the Standards Committee Chairs of the three councils and was put on notice 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. These changes have only recently been implemented and monitoring the effect of them is work in progress. If evidence throughout the coming year suggests that this needs to be addressed before the next Annual Report a separate report will be submitted.

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.

Mileage and Expenses 2009/10

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 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. During 2008 the Panel comprised:

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

Dr. Paul Jackson will be standing down shortly as he has completed two terms of office. Arrangements are in hand with the other two districts to recruit to this vacancy.

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 2009-10

Appendix 1

	Current payments	Multiplier of Basic Allowance	Recommendations for 2009/10
Basic Allowance:	4,125		4,200 ³
Special Responsibility Allowances:			
Leader	10,312	2.5	10,500
Executive Board (with portfolio)	6,188	1.5	6,300
Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chairman	6,188	1.5	6,300
Planning Committee Chairman	6,188	1.5	6,300
Licensing Committee Chairman	1,238	0.3	1,260
Scrutiny Team Leaders	1,031	0.25	1,050
Standards Committee Chairman	1,031	0.25	1,050
Group Leader's SRA (Allowance x No. Cllrs in Group – reduces to £44 per head if Group Leader in receipt of another SRA)	86		88

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