

REPORT OF Chief Executive
To: Full Council
Subject: Councillor Allowances
Date: 12 December 2022

Reference:

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

For Members to decide whether to increase the Councillor Allowances.

1. INTRODUCTION

As Members are aware and as part of the Member Allowance Scheme a Basic Allowance and Special Responsibility Allowances are paid to Members.

2. REPORT

Agreement has been reached on the pay award applicable from 1 April 2022 (covering the period 1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023) for all those employees covered by the National Joint Council (NJC). This pay award is £1925 (pro rata for part time staff).

As part of the Member Allowances Scheme Councillors must decide if they want to increase their Basic Allowance and the Special Responsibility Allowance in line with pay award agreed for staff by NJC. The Councillor Basic Allowance is currently £5331.95.

As this year's pay award was a flat rate cash increase of £1925 rather than a percentage the LGA have confirmed that some councils are considering increasing Member Allowances by 4.04% which was the percentage increase applied to NJC allowances.

The average percentage pay award across Torridge District Council pay scales was 6.91%.

The table shows the current rates for the Member Allowance Scheme as well as the potential increased rates.

Position	Current Rate 2021/22	4.04 % increase	6.91% increase
Councillor Basic Allowance	£5,331.95	£5,547.36	£5,700.39
Leader	£12,530.09	£13,036.31	£13,395.92
Deputy Leader	£5,331.95	£5,547.36	£5,700.39
Chair of Council	£5,331.95	£5,547.36	£5,700.39
Chair of Community and Resources	£5,331.95	£5,547.36	£5,700.39
Chair of Overview and Scrutiny (Internal)	£5,331.95	£5,547.36	£5,700.39
Chair of Overview and Scrutiny (External)	£5,331.95	£5,547.36	£5,700.39
Chair of Plans	£5,331.95	£5,547.36	£5,700.39
Chair of Audit and Governance	£2,665.98	£2,773.69	£2,850.20
Chair of Licensing	£2,665.98	£2,773.69	£2,850.20
Chair of Standards	£688.45	£716.26	£736.02



3. IMPLICATIONS

Legal Implications

This report is in compliance with The Local Governance Act 2000 and The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003.

Financial Implications

Contained in the report

Human Resources Implications

None

Sustainability/Biodiversity Implications

None

Equality/Diversity

None

Risk Management

None

Compliance with Policies and Strategies

This report is in accordance with the Members Allowances Scheme

Data Protection (GDPR) Implications

None

Climate Change

None

Ward Member and Lead Member Views

This affects all Councillors

4. CONCLUSIONS

For members to decide if they want to increase their basic allowance and the Special Responsibility Allowances in line with the 4.04% applied to NJC allowances or by the average pay award agreed for Torridge staff of 6.91%.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

For Members to decide whether to:

1. Increase the Councillor Basic Allowance and Councillors Special Responsibility Allowances by 4.04% as per the percentage increase applied to NJC allowances.
2. Increase the Councillor Basic Allowance and Councillors Special Responsibility Allowances by 6.91% as per the average percentage pay award across the Torridge District Council pay scales.
3. Keep Councillor Basic Allowance and Councillors Special Responsibility Allowances at the current rate as set out in the Members Allowance Scheme.

