

Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel – recommendations for members' allowances for 2026-27 and the members allowances scheme

Relevant Portfolio Holder		Cllr May, Leader and Cabinet Member for Strategic Partnerships, Economic Development and Enabling; Cllr Nock, Cabinet Member for Finance
Portfolio Holder Consulted		Yes
Relevant Assistant Director		Claire Felton
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Wards Affected	All	
Ward Councillor(s) consulted	N/A	
Relevant Strategic Purpose(s)	N/A	
Non-Key Decision		
If you have any questions about this report, please contact the report author in advance of the meeting.		

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Council is asked to RESOLVE

- 1.1 whether or not to accept all, some or none of the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel for 2026-27;**
- 1.2 having considered the Panel's report and recommendations, whether or not changes are required to the Council's scheme of allowances for Members arising from this.**

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Each Council is required by law to have an Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) which recommends the level of allowances for Councillors. The IRP is made up of suitably skilled members of the public who are completely independent of the District Council. It also makes recommendations to four other District Councils in Worcestershire.

3. OPERATIONAL ISSUES

- 3.1 The full report of the IRP is included in Appendix 1 and recommends basic allowances, special responsibility allowances (SRA), travel, subsistence and dependent carer allowances.
- 3.2 The Council can choose to implement the IRP's recommendations in full or in part, or not to accept them and choose their own.
- 3.3 If the Council decides to choose to differ from the panel's recommendations it must provide transparent and accountable reasoning for that decision.
- 3.2 Once the Council has agreed the allowances for 2026-27 Officers will update and publish the Members' Allowances Scheme as appropriate.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The IRP recommends a basic allowance of £6,095 which is a 4.62% increase from its recommendation from last year (£269 per councillor on the basic allowance).
- 4.2 If the Council makes changes to the current amounts of allowances there will be additional budgetary costs. If the Council implements all the recommendations of the IRP budgetary costs across the year would be increased in the region of £3,500 assuming four cabinet members or £12,600 with five cabinet members. This does not include Chairmen of overview and scrutiny task groups as they are paid pro rata for the length of the task group.
- 4.3 Although not part of the Independent Renumeration Panel's work Members may also wish to consider increasing the Chairman's allowance in line with the basic allowance, an additional £269.
- 4.4 A budget bid has been made to reflect any changes made from the recommendations in this report, but the future costs will need to be covered in the medium-term financial plan.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Council is required to "have regard" to the recommendations of the Panel. However, it is not obliged to agree to them. It can choose to implement them in full or in part, or not to accept them.
- 5.2 If the Council decides to review its scheme of allowances for Councillors, it is also required to take into account recommendations from the Panel before doing so.

6. OTHER - IMPLICATIONS

Local Government Reorganisation

6.1 No direct implications at the current time.

Relevant Council Priority

6.2 None as this report deals with statutory functions.

Climate Change Implications

6.3 None in this report.

Equalities and Diversity Implications

6.4 None in this report.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

7.1 Payments to Councillors can be a high-profile issue. The main risks are reputational. However, the Council is transparent about the decisions made on allowances. The Allowances scheme and sums paid to Councillors each year are published on the Council's website.

8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendix 1: Report and recommendations from the Independent Remuneration Panel for 2026-27.

Background papers:

Members Allowances Scheme – in the Council Constitution at part 19:

[Constitution of Bromsgrove District Council](#)

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

**COUNCIL
2026**

21 January

9. REPORT SIGN OFF

Department	Name and Job Title	Date
Portfolio Holder		
Lead Director / Assistant Director		
Financial Services		
Legal Services		