

**SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL
THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES (MEMBERS ALLOWANCES) (ENGLAND)
REGULATIONS 2003 (AS AMENDED)
SCHEME OF MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES 2017/18**

At its meeting on 19 July 2017, the County Council considered the recommendations from the Joint Independent Remuneration Panel and agreed the Scheme of Members' Allowances to apply from 1st April 2017 until the 31st March 2018 subject to the amendments below.

Details of the scheme can be accessed on the Council's website via the link below:

<http://www.somerset.gov.uk/councillors-and-democracy/councillors/member-allowances/>

The report of the Joint Independent Remuneration Panel which includes in full the Panel's recommendations to the Council can be accessed on the Council's website via the link below:

<http://democracy.somerset.gov.uk/documents/s4056/Annex%20Joint%20Remuneration%20Panel.pdf>

The minutes of the Council meeting, with more detail behind the summary given below will be able to be accessed on the Council's website via a link below which will appear when the minutes are published in November.

In summary, the scheme makes provision for the payment of the following allowances:

- A Basic Allowance to all councillors in recognition of their normal duties as a councillor of £10,795pa. This sum is in accordance with the Panel's recommendation. The Panel recommended changing the basis of the calculation of the Basic Allowance and the indexing of annual increases to the Basic Allowance for 2017/21 to the Somerset median gross wage rate. The Council decided, however, to retain the current basis for the calculation and indexing of the Basic Allowance aligned to the County Council's officers' pay scale to maintain the relationship between officers pay and members allowances.
- Special Responsibility Allowances (SRAs) for members undertaking roles with a specific responsibility such as the Leader of Council or a committee chairman. The Council accepted the Panel's recommendations for payments to be introduced for the new Junior Cabinet Member positions and increased payments for the Chairman of the Council's main committees and the Vice-Chairman of Council. However, in a change to the Panel's recommendations, the Council decided to retain the existing SRA provisions and payments for the Vice-Chairmen of the main committees, the Leaders of the small political groups and the Deputy Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group. The Council felt that the current arrangements for payments to these posts should be retained as the posts responsibilities, accountabilities and time spent in the role justified the continuation of the current arrangements. The Council agreed to backdate the changes set out above to the 24th May 2017 which is the date that the appointments to the specific roles were agreed by the Council.
- Travel and subsistence allowances for any duty undertaken as a councillor that falls under the list of approved duties contained within the Scheme. The Council agreed the Panel's recommendations to extend the list of approved duties.
- Carers' Allowances – where appropriate and unchanged.

The Scheme of Members' Allowances is also available for inspection during normal office hours at County Hall, Taunton, TA1 4DY – contact Julian Gale or Scott Wooldridge on 01823 359041 or by email democraticservices@somerset.gov.uk

Julian Gale
Monitoring Officer
20.07.17