

**SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL
THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES (MEMBERS ALLOWANCES) (ENGLAND)
REGULATIONS 2003 (AS AMENDED)
SCHEME OF MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES 2019/20**

At its meeting on 20 February 2019, the County Council considered within the MTFP 2019/20 report the proposed approach for the Scheme of Members Allowances 2019/20. The report confirmed that Council had approved a revised Scheme of Members' Allowances in July 2017 following the election of the new Council. The changes made reflected the revised governance arrangements of the Council and included an indexing provision linking increases in the Basic Allowance and Special Responsibility Allowances to officer pay awards. This mechanism would be applied automatically when the officer pay award for 2019/20 is agreed. Beyond this, the Joint Independent Remuneration Panel did not recommend any changes to the Council's Scheme so the current Scheme would continue to apply for 2019/20 with the figures updated as necessary to reflect the pay award.

The Scheme of Allowances 2019/20 can be accessed on the Council's website via the link below.

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/how-the-council-works/member-allowances/>

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 £11,231 pa. The Scheme retains 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, Chair of Council, Cabinet Member, Junior Cabinet Member, Opposition Spokesperson, or a committee chairman.
- Travel and subsistence allowances for any duty undertaken as a councillor that falls under the list of approved duties contained within the Scheme.
- Carers' Allowances – where appropriate.

The Scheme of Members' Allowances is also available for inspection during normal office hours at County Hall, Taunton, TA1 4DY – contact Julia Jones on 01823 357628 or 01823 359500 or by email democraticservices@somerset.gov.uk

Scott Wooldridge
Monitoring Officer
13 August 2019