

St Paul Malmesbury Without Parish Council

Report #07.2

Council Allowance Policy

1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1. To invite council to consider adopting the Report of the WC Independent Remuneration Committee (IRC) - Review of the City, Town & Parish Allowances

2. Background

- 2.1. The IRC undertook its review following a request from a town council. It should be noted that this is the first such report in the Wiltshire Council area since the creation of the Wiltshire Council unitary authority in 2009. The council has the option to adopt or reject the findings of the IRC.
- 2.2. If the council decide to adopt the report, it should also consider whether the chair should receive an enhanced allowance or receive the same allowance as elected councillors. Unfortunately, co-opted councillors are not permitted to receive allowances.
- 2.3. A city, town or parish councillor can choose not to receive all or part of any allowance to which they are otherwise entitled. To do so they must give written notice to the proper officer of the city, town, or parish council.
- 2.4. With approximately 1,800 electors this council falls into Level 2 for the amount of allowances paid – paragraph 34 refers.

3. Options

- 3.1. Not to adopt the report
- 3.2. Adopt the report with all elected members able to claim the same allowance
- 3.3. Adopt the report with all elected members able to claim the same allowance but with the chair able to claim an allowance double that of elected members
- 3.4. Adopt the report but with different allowances

4. Financial Considerations

- 4.1. With nine elected members, the **maximum** annual cost of adopting this report would be £2,970 (9 x £330) assuming all opted to receive the same allowance, or £3,300 if the chair received a larger allowance, say (£660).
- 4.2. Initial indications are that the majority of councillors, including the chair, would not wish to receive an allowance, so, the costs could be minimal. It is worth noting that for taxation purposes HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) consider councillors to have the same status as employees, so could be liable to income tax depending on their personal circumstances.

5. Recommendation

- 5.1. The council's Finance Committee has carefully considered this report and unanimously agrees that it should be adopted as a Level 2 council, with an enhanced allowance of £660 for the chair given the additional responsibilities undertaken and so recommends Option 3.3 be adopted as council policy.