

## Policy and Resources Committee

30<sup>th</sup> September 2024

### Councillor Allowances Discussion Paper

The payment of councillor allowances is prevalent across the local government sector, with principal councils paying basic allowances from £5,000 for small district councils to over £20,000 for large unitary councils. It also includes additional allowance payments for several roles, such as cabinet member, committee chair, leader etc.

It seems to be much less prevalent in the parish tier and there does not appear to be any official published data.

The Local authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 allows Town and Parish Councils to pay a basic parish allowance (Regulation 25) to its Chairman (Mayor) only or to each of its elected members. Where an authority proposes to pay parish basic allowance, whether to its chairman only or to each of its members, it must have regard, in setting the level or levels of such allowances, to the recommendations which have been made in respect of it by a parish remuneration panel in accordance with regulation 28. Under the Regulations the relevant Council is required to undertake a full review every four years.

### **SWALE BOROUGH COUNCIL - PARISH COUNCILLOR ALLOWANCES**

**(Paragraph 27 of The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 (SI2003/1021) refers).**

1. That **recommendations** for Parish Council Allowances for the Borough of Swale be set as follows:

- a) Chair's Allowance (Chair of Parish Council) - a maximum of 10% of Swale Borough Council's Basic Allowance (10% of £6,786 - £678)
- b) Basic Allowance (All other Parish Councillors) - a maximum of 5% of Swale Borough Council's Basic Allowance (5% of £6,786 - £339)

Example of other council allowances

Council Name	Allowances	Other Benefits/Payments
Sevenoaks Town Council	£309	
Broadstairs and St Peter's Town Council	£600	iPad
Tenterden Town Council	£0	
Ramsgate Town Council	£600	Chromebook
Sandwich Town Council	£0	
Dover Town Council	£550	

Payment of any allowance must be via the PAYE system, which could be undertaken on a monthly basis.

Basic allowance is only a recommendation by Swale Borough Council and the town council already budgets an allowance of £1,800 to the Mayor, an increase of 165%.

Please see the accompanying article [Back to Basics](#).