**Survey (IRP)**

This document is for reference only and is intended to help respondents consider their answers to the survey questions before using the online link.

All responses should be via the link [https://surveys.wiltshire.gov.uk/s/4t54cm](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fsurveys.wiltshire.gov.uk%2Fs%2F4t54cm&data=05%7C02%7Csimon.bennett%40wiltshire.gov.uk%7Ce77d210cd9054a0e6b8908dce3a30b65%7C5546e75e3be14813b0ff26651ea2fe19%7C0%7C0%7C638635536642140307%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=fOaajaDJgJSeN%2Bvco7UiqyHqUehPXM8vslkiizCU1Ok%3D&reserved=0)

Responses cannot be accepted that do not use the above link.

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**Introduction**

The Wiltshire Independent Remuneration Panel, convened under The Local Authorities (Members’ Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003, is undertaking a review of the allowances available to Parish and Town Councillors in the Wiltshire unitary authority area.

Though Wiltshire Council is the responsible authority for establishing and supporting the [Panel](https://cms.wiltshire.gov.uk/documents/s187420/Appointment_of_an_Independent_Remuneration_Panel.pdf), this is an independent review of allowances scheme that will make recommends to your Council.

Ultimately each Parish or Town Council makes its own decisions concerning adopting an allowances scheme, but it must do so with regard to the recommendations of the Panel.

The Local Authorities (Members’ Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 state that each parish or town council may:

* Choose to pay their members an allowance, known as 'parish basic allowance', to recognise the time and effort they put into their parish duties.
* Make an allowance available to its Chair only, or to each of its members
* Pay the chair a different amount than to other members, where all members receive an allowance, but otherwise the amount paid to each member must be the same.

The survey below will capture information on current allowance schemes and opinions on how to develop a future scheme. Responses to the survey will help the Panel arrive at its recommendations.

The Panel may follow up certain responses but only from respondents who have agreed to be contacted. If respondents wish to be interviewed/meet the panel, then the panel will make every effort to meet such requests.

The Parish Clerk or Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) may invite the members of the authority to complete a separate response to this questionnaire.

Please submit your response by **28 October 2024**

1. **Which statement accurately reflects how this survey response is being submitted?**

* By Council having considered the survey questions (tick box)
* Delegated to the Clerk/RFO to respond on behalf of the Council (tick box)
* By an individual member of Council expressing your own responses (tick box)

1. **What is the name of your Council and the name of the Councillor or Officer submitting the response?**
2. **Contact email address (text box)**
3. **Telephone number (text box)**

The Panel may wish to contact you about your response to this questionnaire. Your name and contact information will be made available to the Panel only for the purposes of making its recommendations, and only if you agree.

Personal data will not be retained after the Panel has concluded its deliberations. See [Privacy notice - Wiltshire Council](https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/privacy)

1. **Please choose one of the following:**

*I agree that my name and contact details may be forwarded to the Panel for use in following up this survey.* (tick box)

*Only the name of my Council, and if and on what basis the response is made by the Clerk / RFO are to be provided to the Panel, and I do not wish to participate further.* (tick box)

1. **Do you support the concept of paying a basic allowance to town and parish councillors? (Y/N)**
2. **Does your council currently provide a basic allowance? (Y/N)**
3. **If yes, what is the basic allowance per annum? (tick)**

**<£100**

**£101-£500**

**£501-£1000**

**£1001-£1500**

**£1501-£2000**

**>£2001**

1. **If no, why does your council not offer a basic allowance? (text)**
2. **Does your council currently provide an allowance to the Chairman? (Y/N)**

**[The Chairman is a statutory post defined by law with a role and responsibilities distinct from that of the civic mayor]**

1. **If yes, what is the Chairman’s allowance per annum? (tick)**

**<£100**

**£101-£500**

**£501-£1000**

**£1001-£2500**

**£2501-£5000**

**>£5001**

1. **If no, why does your council not offer a Chairman’s allowance? (text)**
2. **Would access to a basic allowance encourage new people to stand for election? (Y/N)**
3. **Please explain your response to Q8 if ‘Yes’ (text)**
4. **Please explain your response to Q8 if ‘No’ (text)**
5. **Certain factors and complexities might influence how a basic allowance is calculated and applied. Some of these are set out below, please score the following in order of most significant (1 being the most significant, and 5 being the least):**

* Number of residents (1-5)
* Number of electors (1-5)
* Size of council budget (1-5)
* Range of services provided (1-5)
* A current Neighbourhood Plan (1-5)
* Other (text)

1. **Do you have any other thoughts or comments on town and parish basic allowances? (text)**