

MEMBER ALLOWANCES 2023/2024

Head of Service:	Andrew Bircher, Head of Policy and Corporate Resources
Wards affected:	(All Wards);
Urgent Decision? (yes/no)	No
If yes, reason urgent decision required:	
Appendices (attached):	Appendix 1 – Members allowances

Summary

To propose increases to Member allowances, and the Mayoral budget for 2023/24 as set out in the paper below, so that they can be approved as part of the overall budget setting process.

Recommendation (s)

The Committee is asked to:

- (1) Recommend to Council, as part of the budget setting process, that Member allowances are increased by 3% for 2023/24**
- (2) Recommend to Council that the Mayoral budget is increased by 10.1% for 2023/24**

1 Reason for Recommendation

- 1.1 The recommendations above are to propose to Council the figures to use for the Member allowances and Mayoral budget as part of the Budget setting process. The figures above have been used in the budget setting papers.

2 Background

- 2.1 The council has a scheme which sets out the allowances that are payable to councillors called the Epsom and Ewell Members' Allowances Scheme.
- 2.2 The Mayoral Budget falls outside the Members' Allowances Scheme.

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- 2.3 Increases to both the allowances and the Mayoral budget have used the September CPI figure to determine the increase for the year ahead. The September CPI figure was 10.1%
- 2.4 Staff pay will increase next year by 3% as part of the 4-year pay deal. It is proposed that Member allowances for 2023/24 should mirror the pay award for staff and increase by 3%. The scheme allows for such a change.
- 2.5 After a period of no increases for many years, the Council decided in 2020 to apply increases yearly to the Mayoral budget based on the September CPI. It is proposed to retain that figure and apply an increase of 10.1%.
- 2.6 Member allowances will be reviewed in 2023/24 through the appointment of an Independent Remuneration Panel.

3 Risk Assessment

Legal or other duties

3.1 Equality Impact Assessment

- 3.1.1 An EIA has not been done for this report, but it is not believed this gives rise to any issues

3.2 Crime & Disorder

- 3.2.1 There are no issues arising from this report

3.3 Safeguarding

- 3.3.1 There are no issues arising from this report

3.4 Dependencies

- 3.4.1 This report is linked to the overall budget setting report

3.5 Other

- 3.5.1 None

4 Financial Implications

- 4.1 A schedule of the proposed individual allowances for 2023/24 is set out in Annexe 1.
- 4.2 **Section 151 Officer's comments:** The cost of member allowances for 2022/23 is currently £191,079. If member allowances were uplifted by 3 percent as recommended within this report the budget requirement for 2023/24 would be £184,717. The reduction in the total cost of allowances by £6,362 is due to a reduction in the number of councillors from 38 to 35 which comes into effect from May 2023

5 Legal Implications

5.1 **Legal Officer's comments:** Regulation 4 of The Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 requires councils to make a scheme to provide for the payment of an allowance in respect of each year to each member ("basic allowance"). The amount must be the same for each member. The year means any period ending on 31st March in any year after 2004 (Regulation 4). Under Regulation 10(4) a scheme may make a provision for an annual adjustment of allowances by reference to such index as may be specified by the authority, the scheme is deemed not to have been amended. An annual index adjustment cannot be relied on longer than a period of four years before it will be necessary to seek a further recommendation from the independent remuneration panel.

6 Policies, Plans & Partnerships

6.1 **Council's Key Priorities:** The following Key Priorities are engaged:

6.2 **Service Plans:** The matter is not included within the current Service Delivery Plan.

6.3 **Climate & Environmental Impact of recommendations:**

6.4 **Sustainability Policy & Community Safety Implications:**

6.5 **Partnerships:**

7 Background papers

7.1 The documents referred to in compiling this report are as follows:

Previous reports:

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Other papers:

- [Councillors Allowances Scheme 2022-23, Part 6 of the Constitution of Epsom and Ewell Borough Council](#)