

REVIEW OF PARISH AND TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES - July 2021

Consultation on behalf of Dorset Parish Independent Remuneration Panel

Please respond by 30 September 2021 at 5pm

INTRODUCTION

Dorset Council has appointed an **Independent Remuneration Panel ('the Panel')** to review the allowances available to Parish and Town Councillors.

Dorset Council is the responsible authority for establishing the Panel to conduct an independent review of the allowances scheme to be recommended to your Council.

Each Parish or Town Council makes its own decisions concerning adopting an allowances scheme, but it may not do so unless it has had regard to the recommendations of the Panel.

The responses that are provided to this survey will help the Panel arrive at its recommendations to your Council on its allowances scheme. DAPTC has been asked by the Panel to engage with your Council to assist it in making its recommendations.

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

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

- By Council having considered the survey questions
- Delegated to the Clerk/RFO to respond on behalf of Council
- By an individual member of Council expressing your own responses

Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils are the data controller and are responsible for collecting and holding all responses received from town and parish councils to the survey and will make responses available to the Panel. Personal data will only be held for so long as is necessary for the preparation and completion of the Panel's report and will be used only for that purpose and to contact respondents if a request to contact has been made.

* 2. Council name or Clerk's name completing the survey and contact details

Council Name	<input type="text" value="Lyme Regis Town Council"/>
Name of Councillor or Clerk Submitting Response	<input type="text" value="John Wright"/>
Contact Email Address	<input type="text" value="Townclerk@lymeregistowncouncil.gov.uk"/>
Telephone Number	<input type="text" value="01297 445175"/>

* 3. The Panel may wish to contact you about your response to this questionnaire. Your name and contact information will be made available to the clerk to the Panel only for the purpose of making its recommendations, and only if you agree. Your personal data will not be retained by the clerk to the Panel after it has concluded its deliberations.

Please choose one of the following:

- I agree that my name and contact details may be forwarded to the clerk to the Panel for use in following up this survey.
- 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 clerk to the Panel, and I do not wish to participate further.

* 4. Which of the following most accurately describes your council?

Respond to this question as you see fit based on what you know.

- Town Council
- Larger Parish Council
- Medium Parish Council
- Small Parish Council

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Let us know your thoughts on the current allowances

If you are unfamiliar with the current members' allowances recommendations to town and parish councils, read the [Dorset Parish Independent Remuneration Report Nov 2019](#)

The next few questions relate to the existing allowances scheme and it is with this in mind we ask you to respond to questions 5-8.

Individual Councillors may voluntarily forego any allowances payable. Can you please indicate which statement applies at your council:

* 5. Which of these statements represents your Council's current scheme of allowances for the payment of a basic allowance?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> No basic allowance is permitted (if you select this response go to Q10 or Q11) | <input type="checkbox"/> All Councillors are entitled to a basic allowance, but only some take it |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Only the Chair is entitled to a basic allowance | <input type="checkbox"/> All Councillors are entitled to a basic allowance, and all take all or some of it |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The Chair is entitled to a basic allowance, but does not take it | <input type="checkbox"/> I am entitled to a basic allowance, but do not take (for individual Councillor responses only) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> All Councillors are entitled to a basic allowance, but none take it | <input type="checkbox"/> I am entitled to a basic allowance, and I take all or some of it (for individual Councillor responses only) |

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Let us know your thoughts on the current allowances

6. A scheme of allowances was recommended to your Council by the Panel in 2019 (the Recommendations). Please indicate which statement below reflects your Council's current scheme of allowances:

- Our Council adopted the Recommendations as the scheme of allowances
- Our Council adopted the Recommendations as the scheme of allowances and used the permitted flexibility to adopt a higher basic allowance (please indicate relevant figure(s) in Question 7)
- Our Council had regard to the Recommendations, but has adopted a different scheme of allowances (please indicate relevant figure(s) in Question 8)
- I am not aware of the Recommendations having been made

7. If you responded to the previous question by selecting 'Our Council adopted the Recommendations as the scheme of allowances and used the permitted flexibility to adopt a higher basic allowance'. Please state the amount in the comment box below:

8. If you responded to the previous question by selecting 'Our Council had regard to the Recommendations, but has adopted a different scheme of allowances '. Please state the amount in the comment box below:

£489 p.a.

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Let us know your thoughts on future allowances and what factors may influence them

9. When considering factors that could influence the basic allowance for members of your Council, please rank the following in order of most significant (1 being the most significant, and 5 being the least. You will need to allocate a ranking to each of the statements below):

✓

Size of electorate

✓

Resident population size

✓

Seasonal variation in population size

✓

Council budget and service provision

✓

Special circumstances that apply to your Council (please provide details in the free format box in Question 10)

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Just one last question if you have any further thoughts you would like to share with the panel:

10. Add any additional thoughts or comments below or alternatively jump to Q11 and if easier upload a statement or file in support of any additional comments:

'The biggest issue for LRTC members is the historic practice of basing members' allowances on electorate size; this is something the town council has written to Dorset Council and its predecessor, West Dorset District Council, about previously.

Lyme Regis Town Council believes Dorset Council Independent Remuneration Panel should consider budget, and range and complexity of functions, alongside electorate, and that these should be given equal weighting.

Although Lyme Regis' electorate is comparatively small, we are a large budget town council, c£1.7M. As well as the usual town council functions, we manage car parks, enforcement, toilets, commercial premises, and a chalet and caravan park. We are also responsible for a significant number of major events in the town each year. The commercial nature of our business is reflected by the ratio of commercial income to precept, £1,568,000 (92%) : £132,000 (8%).

The size and diverse nature of our business requires a comprehensive committee structure and presents members with complex problems and sensitive decisions.'

11. As an alternative to adding text in the free format box for Question 10 - you may upload a file to the survey if this is easier.

Please use either word or a pdf file as a preference.

Choose File

Choose File

No file chosen

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. Please click on submit to ensure your views are considered.

