

## Public Notice

On 15 January 2020, the council's Human Resources Committee considered a report from the Dorset Parish Independent Remuneration Panel which met in November 2019, click [here](#).

The panel recommended a maximum allowance of £390 per annum for Lyme Regis Town Council members, i.e., 3% of the £13,000 per annum allowance paid to a Dorset Council member and if a higher amount is paid to the chairman of the council, this should not exceed twice the maximum basic allowance paid to a member.

The panel also recommended, 'that where any council adopts a scheme of allowances, the commencement of such scheme should be back dated to the commencement of the current municipal year.'

Subsection 2 Regulation 25 of The Local Authorities (Members' Allowance) (England) Regulations 2003 states that a council must have regard to the recommendations of the Remuneration Committee (Dorset Parish Independent Remuneration panel).

Advice received from the National Association of Local Councils is that, 'as soon as reasonably practical after setting the levels at which the allowance is paid and to whom, the council must arrange for the publication in a conspicuous place for a period of at least 14 days within the area of the council, a notice containing the following information:

- Any recommendation in respect of parish basic allowance made by the parish remuneration panel
- The level or levels at which the authority has decided to pay basic allowance and to which members it is to be paid
- A statement that in reaching the decision, regard was had to the recommendation of the parish remuneration panel.'

On 15 January 2020, the Human Resources Committee considered a [report](#) on members' allowances and recommended to the Full Council, 'to keep the members' allowance at the current level, pending a further review by Dorset Council's remuneration Panel in late-2020.' The allowance paid to Lyme Regis Town Councillors is £489 per annum; the allowance paid to Lyme Regis Town Council's mayor is £4,403 per annum.

On 19 February 2020, the Full Council approved this recommendation.

The for this decision rationale:

- The current members' allowance of £489<sup>1</sup> per annum was set by West Dorset Remuneration Scheme Panel in January 2011; Dorset Parish Independent Remuneration Panel's recommendation of £390 represents a £99 reduction in Lyme Regis Town Council members' allowance. If inflation is applied, the value of this reduction is greater
- The report of the Dorset Parish Independent Remuneration Panel is inconsistent. It states the panel was advised, 'that the level of responsibilities and workloads of parish and town councillors have not changed significantly since they were last reviewed. However, a reduction of £99.00 per annum is recommended
- In the report of the Dorset Parish Independent Remuneration Panel it states, 'It may be possible, in the future, to accommodate special circumstances pertaining to a council by characterising it a different Level, following a further review. The Panel was informed that the Dorset Council is not aware currently of any such special circumstances in relation to any town or parish in the Dorset council area.' Lyme Regis Town council made representation to West Dorset District Council and Dorset Council about members' allowances, but this wasn't presented to the panel.
- Dorset Parish Independent Remuneration Panel's report recommends, 'that a further review is undertaken in 12 months' time.' The town council will re-provide Dorset Council with information about the council's budget and functions to help the panel to make an informed decision about members' allowances.

The town council will amend its travel and subsistence allowances to reflect recommendations from the Dorset Parish Independent Remuneration Panel. A list of approved duties for the payment of travel and subsistence allowances, similar to that set out in the Dorset Council's Scheme of Members' Allowances, will be presented to the Human Resources Committee on 15 April 2020.

John Wright  
Town clerk  
26 February 2020

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<sup>1</sup> In November 2011, West Dorset Parish Remuneration Scheme Panel recommended Lyme Regis Town Council members were paid 10% of a west Dorset District Councillors basic allowance of £4,889.