

REPORT TO THE MEETING OF COUNCIL

Report No. 10

Date of Meeting	24th April 2007
Title of Report	Members Allowances Scheme – Municipal Year 2007/2008
Link to Corporate Priorities	None
Public Report	Yes

Summary of Report

To consider setting the Members Allowances Scheme for the Municipal Year 2007/2008.

Officer Recommendations

That the Members Allowances Scheme for the Municipal Year 2007/2008 as set out in Appendices one and two to this report be adopted.

Other than those implications agreed with the relevant Officers and referred to below, there are no other implications associated with this report.

Financial Implications	Legal Implications	Community & Environmental Implications	Human Resources Implications	Equality & Diversity Implications
YES	YES	NONE	NONE	NONE

Contact Officer	Simon Wright Policy & Democratic Services Officer 01249 706611 swright@northwilts.gov.uk
------------------------	--

1. Introduction

1.1 To recommend a Members Allowances Scheme for the 2007/2008 municipal year.

2. Options

2.1 Council could decide to approve a scheme different to that contained in the appendices to this report

3. Background Information

3.1 When the current scheme was adopted Council accepted the recommendation of the Independent Remuneration Panel that allowance schemes to the end of the 2007/2008 Municipal Year would be increased in line with an inflationary index.

3.2 The Retail Price Index (RPI) has been calculated from a yearly average of the most recently available figures. The calculation is shown in the table below:

Period	RPI (%)		Period	RPI (%)
2006 (02)	2.4		2006 (08)	3.4
2006 (03)	2.4		2006 (09)	3.6
2006 (04)	2.6		2006 (10)	3.7
2006 (05)	3.0		2006 (11)	3.9
2006 (06)	3.3		2006 (12)	4.4
2006 (07)	3.3		2007 (01)	4.2
			Average (%)	3.35

Source: The Office of National Statistics – www.statistics.gov.uk

3.3 In respect of travel and subsistence allowances it was agreed that the rates would be in line with the scheme for officers of the council.

3.4 In any decisions on the new scheme Council will have to take in to account any new posts they wish to create in the light of any changes to the democratic structure.

4. Financial Implications

4.1 If the proposals are supported the increase to the Members allowances budget is £12,649. This would be met from the contingency budget for inflation of £144.1k.

5. Legal Implications

5.1 Members should note that consideration must be given to the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel. Council retains the authority to set the allowances scheme and can make amendments if it has reason.

Appendices:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Schedule of Member Allowance Payments (Appendix 1)• Travel and Subsistence Allowances (Appendix 2)• Comparison with 2006/2007 Allowances (Appendix 3)
Background	None

Documents Used in the Preparation of this Report:	
--	--

Previous Decisions Connected with this Report:

Report	Committee & Date	Minute Reference
Members Allowances – 2005/2006	Council – 30 November 2004	C68
Members Allowances – 2006/2007	Council – 25 April 2006	C112

Members Allowances

1. Schedule of Payments

1.1 That the following payments be approved for the Municipal Year 2007-08;

	Amount £
Basic Allowance	3,882
Chairman of Council	4,889
Vice Chairman of Council	2,444
Leader of Council	9,541
Lead Member	4,771
Deputy Leader	4,771
Other Group Leaders (i.e. all Group leaders except the leader of Council) – Fixed element	1,090
Other Group Leaders (i.e. all Group leaders except the leader of Council) - Variable element	87 (per Group Member)
Overview & Scrutiny Chairman	4,771
Overview & Scrutiny Vice Chairman	954
Development Control Chairman	3,817
Development Control Vice Chairman	763
Area Committee Chairmen	1,909
Area Committee Vice Chairmen	382
Personnel, Licensing & Administration Chairman	1,813
Personnel, Licensing & Administration Vice-Chairman	363
Standards Committee Chairman	1,909
Standards Committee Vice-Chairman	382
Licensing Hearings Budget	1,909
Allowance for Political Groups	10,000

1.2 That Members be able to opt to not receive any allowances;

1.3 That any Member that has been suspended or partially suspended from their responsibilities or duties as a member of the authority in accordance with Part III of the Local Government Act 2000 or regulations made under that Part, have their allowances withheld; and

2. Indexing

2.1 For the municipal year 2007-2008 the scheme has been increased in line with the annual changes in the retail price index over a 12 month period.

3. Travel & Subsistence Allowances

3.1 That the Travel & Subsistence Scheme for Members for the municipal year 2007-2008 on approved duties be as detailed in Appendix 2.

4. Dependant Carers Allowance

4.1 That the cost of care for the dependant of a Member be claimed as an expense to a maximum of cost £10 per hour.

5. Co-Optees Allowances

- 5.1 That no allowances be payable for Co-Opted Members including Independent and Local Council Members of the Standards Committee other than those elected as Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Standards Committee.

6. Political Group Allowances

- 6.1 That the £10,000 be allocated to each political group on a pro rata basis.
- 6.2 That claims against the allocation can be made to remunerate extra duties performed by group members.
- 6.3 That claims against the allocation can be made for the activities for group training and development.
- 6.4 That claims against the allocation be made to the Finance Team specifying to whom the allowance should be paid, what extra duties have been undertaken or what group development activities have been undertaken.
- 6.5 That any claim made must be for the primary benefit of North Wiltshire District Council.

TRAVEL ALLOWANCES 2007/2008

Cubic Capacity	Rate per mile
451-999 cc	39.7p
1000-1199 cc	43.1p
1200cc +	54.4p

The cost of travel within the district on Public Transport excluding Taxis be reimbursed to Members.

That any journeys outside of the District on Public Transport or Taxi's be approved by the Chief Executive or other delegated officer prior to expenses being paid.

OVERNIGHT SUBSISTENCE 2007/2008

Please note that the subsistence rates given below are the maximum amount payable. You will need to have incurred the costs in order to claim - therefore you must attach proof of payment (e.g. a receipt) to each claim form.

Allowance	Rate
Breakfast	£4.92
Lunch	£6.77
Tea	£2.67
Evening Meal	£8.38
Out of Pocket expenses: per night	£3.62
Out of Pocket expenses: per week	£14.51

MISCELLANEOUS RATES**2007/2008**

Bicycle	11.2p per mile
Motorcycle above 250cc	18.5p per mile

Note: Councillors are expected to use the most economical form of transport available.

Members Allowances

Comparison of figures

	2006/2007	2007/2008
	Amount £	Amount £
Basic Allowance	3,756	3,882
Chairman of Council	4,731	4,889
Vice Chairman of Council	2,365	2,444
Leader of Council	9,232	9,541
Lead Member	4,616	4,771
Deputy Leader	4,616	4,771
Other Group Leaders – fixed	1,055	1,090
Other Group Leaders – variable	84	87
	(per group member)	(per group member)
Overview & Scrutiny Chairman	4,616	4,771
Overview & Scrutiny Vice Chairman	923	954
Development Control Chairman	3,693	3,817
Development Control Vice Chairman	738	763
Area Chairmen	1,847	1,909
Area Vice Chairmen	370	382
PLA Chairman	1,754	1,813
PLA Vice-Chairman	351	363
Standards Chairman	1,847	1,909
Standards Vice-Chairman	370	382
Licensing Hearings Budget	1,847	1,909
Procurement Champion	1,184	0
Allowance for Political Groups	10,000	10,000