Dear Clerks

Under the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003, the Council is required to establish and maintain an Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP). The purpose of the Panel is to consider and make recommendations to the Council about the allowances paid to Members under its Scheme of Allowances. The District Council must make the final decision on its Scheme but in doing so it must have regard to the advice of the IRP before making any changes.

Chichester District Council has appointed an Independent Remuneration Panel to embark on the next review. Any changes in the Scheme of Members' Allowances will take effect from 1 April 2027.

As part of this review all Parish Councils are offered the opportunity to offer their views on the Scheme of Members' Allowances available to Parishes. Some parishes do not pay allowances to their Members.

Those that do have to find the cost from their parish precept. There is no funding from the District or elsewhere.

To assist the Panel, we would welcome your answers to four questions:

1. Does your Parish Council pay any allowance to their Members?

2. If so, what allowances are in payment and to whom?

3. If not, would your Parish Council wish to introduce a Scheme of Member's Allowances?

4. Allowances are based on the Basic Allowance paid to District Councillors (currently £5,460 pa). The Panel are likely to recommend:
    a. An allowance for Parish Council Chairs (possibly 20 – 30% of the Basic Allowance
    b. An allowance for all Parish Council Members (possibly 10%).

If your Parish were to pay theses allowances, do you believe that the percentages are too high/about right/too low?
What percentage would you suggest?
Thank you for helping with this review.

Please reply to democraticservices@chichester.gov.uk by **30th of November 2026.**

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best wishes

Fiona Baker

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