

OFFICER DECISION NOTICE



Reading
Borough Council
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This notice is to be used for the following types of officer decisions. (Select one option).

A. Decisions taken by officers under a specific express delegation from Council or a Committee.

B. Decisions taken by officers under a general delegation from Council or a Committee, which relates to (i) a permission or a licence, or (ii) the rights of an individual, or (iii) a contract or expenditure over £100,000 which materially affects that relevant local government body's financial position.

1. Title of decision:	Members' Allowances Scheme
2. Date of the decision:	09 November 2023
3. The decision maker:	Michael Graham, Assistant Director of Legal & Democratic Services

4. Decision details:

To increase Councillors' Allowances for 2023/24, with effect from 1 April 2023, by 3.88%, in accordance with the agreed Local Government Pay Settlement increase in relation to all allowances.

5. Reasons for the decision:

The Remuneration Panel has recommended that Councillors' Allowances should be increased annually in line with the Local Government Pay Settlement to avoid allowances falling behind other similar local authorities, as had been the case in Reading prior to the 2019/20 financial year.

6. Alternative options considered (if any) and rejected:

No further options have been considered.

7. List of open Background Papers:

There are no unpublished background papers which are material to the preparation of this Officer Decision Notice.

8. List of confidential or exempt Background Papers:

There are none.

9. Any other matters taken into consideration:

Legitimate expectation of consultation

Procedural requirements

Public Health implications

Environmental or Climate Change

Health and Safety

Risk Management implications

Transparency of Information (FOI etc)

Privacy Impact Assessments

<input type="checkbox"/> Human Rights Act Duties	<input type="checkbox"/> Equality Impact Assessment
<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate Parenting	<input type="checkbox"/> Community Safety
<input type="checkbox"/> Regulatory duties	<input type="checkbox"/> EU withdrawal
<input type="checkbox"/> Armed Forces Covenant	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
Details of the matters taken into account: There are none.	

10. Legal considerations

Under the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003, councils must consider the findings of an independent remuneration panel before determining the councillors' allowances scheme. This has been done and the findings of the Panel have been approved by Council.

Regulation 10(3) allows the scheme to be amended at any time.

11. Financial considerations

There is sufficient provision within the base budget for 2023/24 to meet the cost of the Councillors' Allowances Scheme.

12. Internal consultations

The Director of Finance was consulted about the budget position on 8 November 2023.

Sections 13- 18: To be completed only for Decision A (express delegation from a Committee)

13. The name of the Committee:	Council
14. Date of the meeting:	31 January 2023
15. Minute number:	28
16. The delegation given by Council:	That the Assistant Director of Legal & Democratic Services be authorised to administer the Councillors' Allowances scheme in accordance with the provision in the base budget for 2023/24.
17. The name of any member of the committee who declared a conflict of interest in relation to the decision:	All Councillors have a general dispensation under Section 33 of the Localism Act 2011, from the restrictions in Section 31(4) of the Act, in relation to the Councillors' Allowances Scheme.
18. Any councillor or officer required to be consulted prior to the exercise of this delegation and details of their response.	