

Councillor Survey on Member Allowances

Summary of Responses

Summary	Table of Responses	Respondents	Non-Respondents
Search Responses	Cross-Tabulate	Export	

1

Statutory Guidance states that it is important for some element of the work of a councillor to be voluntary. Since 2008 a Public Service Discount (PSD) of 33% has been applied to members' allowances.

In the current Scheme members are remunerated on the basis of spending 15 hours a week on Council and constituency work. Ten of those hours are remunerated by the Basic Allowance and 5 hours are given voluntarily.

The PSD at other Local Authorities across the South East ranges from 30% to 50%.

Do you feel the PSD of 33% applied to the Spelthorne member allowances scheme is set:

At the right level	20
Too high	3
Too low	6

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2

In an average week, how many hours do you spend on attending Council and other formal meetings, training/briefings, civic events, political group meetings and undertaking general constituency work (do not include time spent on fulfilling a role for which you receive a special responsibility allowance).

0-7 hrs per week (up to an hour per day)	4
8-14 hrs per week (between 1 and 2 hours per day)	8
15-21 hrs per week (between 2 and 3 hours per day)	10

22+ hrs per week (over 3 hours per day)

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3

Do you hold a position with special responsibilities? i.e. Leader/Deputy/Chair/Vice-Chair

Yes 18

No 11

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4

In an average week, please estimate the **additional** number of hours you spend on fulfilling the role for which you receive a special responsibility allowance

0-7 hrs per week (up to an hour per day) 12

8-14 hrs per week (between 1 and 2 hours per day) 2

15-21 hrs per week (between 2 and 3 hours per day) 3

22+ (over 3 hours per day) 1

Not applicable 4

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5

The Basic Allowance is intended to recognize the time commitment of all councillors including such inevitable calls on their time as attending Council and other formal meetings, training/briefings, civic events and political group meetings and undertaking general constituency work, including ward surgeries. It does not include time spent on political campaigning.

In your opinion, is the Basic Allowance (currently £6662)

Too high	1
About right	13
Too low	15

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6

For the past 6 years, annual increases in the Basic Allowance have been linked to the staff pay award.

Do you agree that the staff pay award is the most appropriate link for these increases?

Yes	18
No	5
Don't know	6

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7

Were you aware before you were elected that councillors received an allowance and did this influence your decision to stand for election?

I was not aware of the allowance before I was elected	13
I was aware of the allowance and it was a factor in my decision to stand	3
I was aware of the allowance but it did not factor in my decision to stand	13

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8

In the current Scheme, Special Responsibility Allowances (SRAs) are calculated as a percentage of the Leader's allowance using a hierarchy structure in terms of responsibilities and quantity of work for the different roles.

Do you agree that the above methodology is an appropriate approach for calculating SRAs?

Yes	18
No	5
Don't know	6

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9

Do you think the current levels of SRA's are:

About right	21
Too high	1
Too low	7

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10

For the 2023 - 2027 term of office, councillors were given a one-off allowance of £250 (pro-rated if applicable) to spend solely on ICT equipment, e.g. associated peripherals, broadband and consumables.

Do you think the current ICT allowance is

About right	20
Too high	1
Too low	8

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11

As a consequence of becoming a councillor what changes to your ICT set up have you had to make at home? (tick all that apply)

First time purchase of Broadband	1
Improvement in Broadband service	8
First time purchase of computer equipment	2
Improvement in computer equipment	5
First time purchase of printer	2
Improvement in printer equipment	7
Purchase of mobile phone specifically for Council business	10

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12

Do you consider yourself to be financially disadvantaged as a result of your role as a councillor?

Yes	10
No	19

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13

Members can claim travel and expenses for attending those meetings defined in the Approved Duties list (pages 6-7 of [Members' Allowances Scheme 2023-24](#)).

Have you claimed any travel or other expenses for attending meetings in the past year, or since you were elected in May 2023, as applicable?

Yes (over £250)	0
Yes (£50-£250)	3
Yes (under £50)	2
No	24

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14

Do you think the scope of meetings for which you can claim travel or other expenses is:

About right	25
Too narrow	3
Too wide	0

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15

What overall approach would you like the IRP to take in its review of Member Allowances for 2024?

This question has been answered 28 times.

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