Full Council meeting 10 November 2026
Agenda item 9 – Councillor Allowances
Written by – Town Clerk

Purpose of Report

To seek Council confirmation of its intention to introduce a councillor allowance scheme, to adopt the draft scheme and set a date for the implementation of the scheme.

Background

Wiltshire Council, during 2024, undertook a review of remuneration for councillors in towns and parishes in Wiltshire following a request of a town council.

The report outlined that Bradford on Avon Town Council was considered a 'level 5' council, and it made a recommendation of a rate of remuneration for councillors based on 8% of a Wiltshire Council basic allowance.

This report was initially discussed at Resources committee, 9th September 2025 where it was suggested and agreed that this should be referred to Full Council to ensure all councillors had the opportunity to share their views as this would impact all councillors.

The report was then discussed at Full Council, 4th November 2025, where it was considered that appealing to a younger or more diverse demographic, renumeration might be a useful benefit. It would allow individuals to decide whether to take the allowance or not.

Councillors agreed to introduce an allowance scheme and to set up a working group to consider what scheme would be appropriate.

A working group of Councillors was convened and met twice [16th February and 17th March 2026] where the parameters of a scheme were discussed. The working group had the remit to produce a Councillor Allowance Scheme.

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Consideration

The working group agreed that any allowance shouldn't be for 'just being a councillor' and also recognised that being a councillor was more than 'just attending' meetings. The group understands that the role of a town councillor was a volunteer position, but there were barriers that may detract people from considering becoming a councillor.

The group agreed the benchmark for any allowance needed to be simple and therefore set it against number of meetings attended during the year and that councillors would need to claim the allowance and this would become a published document. A copy of the proposed scheme is attached.

The group also noted that during the various discussions, current councillors had indicated that they would not take the allowance and therefore no allowance was made in the budget [2026/27] for the scheme. If the scheme is agreed and an implementation date set, this would have to be added in to future budgets.

Councillors are asked to:

i) Confirm the introduction of a councillor allowance scheme

ii) Agree to adopt the scheme as presented

In the event that i) and ii) are agreed to:

iii) Set an implementation date for the scheme

Ian Brown
Chief Executive & Town Clerk
20th October 2026