

REPORT OF THE PARISH REMUNERATION PANEL

BLACKTHORN Parish Council has received a report by the Parish Remuneration Panel making recommendations regarding the levels of parish remuneration.

The proposals of the Parish Remuneration Panel are as follows:

Whilst acknowledging parish populations were increasing; the Panel agreed that the banding levels were still appropriate. The panel would continue to review population levels annually to ensure parishes were banded correctly.

The bandings for 2022/23:

- Band 1 – Banbury, Bicester and Kidlington
- Band 2 – Adderbury, Ambrosden, Bloxham, Bodicote, Caversfield, Deddington, Gosford and Water Eaton, Heyford Park, Hook Norton, Launton and Yarnton
- Band 3 – All remaining Parishes

The levels of allowance for the financial year 2022/2023 should continue to be based on a proportion of the District Council rates.

It was agreed by Council on 28 February 2022 that Members Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances should be increased in line with the staff cost of living increase rounded up or down, whichever is closest, to give 12 equal payments, and payment of the increase backdated to the beginning of the financial year 2022/2023, 1 April 2022, should a settlement not be agreed before that date.

Negotiations for the 2022/2023 pay review have not concluded and therefore the increase is unknown and cannot be applied. Confirmation will be sent to Cherwell Parishes when the staff cost of living increase has been agreed.

The current rates (2021/2022) are as follow:

Band 1 (Banbury, Bicester and Kidlington) - £900 per annum

Band 2 (Adderbury, Ambrosden, Bloxham, Bodicote, Caversfield, Deddington, Gosford and Water Eaton, Heyford Park, Hook Norton, Launton and Yarnton) - £450 per annum

Band 3 (All remaining Parishes) - £225 per annum

- (a) that if parish councils wish to pay an enhanced allowance to parish chairmen/town mayors this be based on a 50% increase in the recommended rates of the parish basic allowance so that the chairman/town mayor would receive a payment, according to the relevant band, as follows:-

Band 1 - £1344 per annum
Band 2 - £672 per annum
Band 3 - £336 per annum

(b) that there be no increase in Travel and Subsistence Allowances

Bicycles	20p per mile
Motorcycles	24p per mile
Motor Vehicles (including Electric)	45p per mile
Breakfast Allowance	£6.02 per meal
Lunch Allowance	£8.31 per meal
Evening Meal Allowance	£10.29 per meal
Absence Overnight	£91.14
Absence Overnight in London or at a National Association of Local Council's Conference	£103.96

- (c) that it would be appropriate for the payment of tolls and other parking charges to continue to be included in parish allowance schemes
- (d) that it would be appropriate for the occasions when parish members can travel by means other than by their own vehicle to continue to be defined in parish allowance schemes; and
- (e) that it be noted that each parish council can determine the 'approved duties' for which it is legitimate to claim travel and subsistence allowances within the five categorises specified in the 2003 Regulations.

The Parish Council will consider the report at a future meeting and decide whether it wishes to use these recommendations, amend these recommendations to form a Members Allowance Scheme or, alternatively, decide not to adopt a Members Allowance Scheme.

A copy of the panel's report is available for inspection on request from the Clerk, or Chairman of the Parish Council, or from Democratic Services at Cherwell District Council(democracy@cherwell-dc.gov.uk 01295 221534)