

B8 – Independent Remuneration Panel

1. Councillors receive allowances to support them in carrying out their work as elected representatives. The size of the allowance for the various Councillor roles is decided by the City Council. In taking this decision, the Council must consider a report from an Independent Remuneration Panel.
2. In Birmingham the Panel comprises:
 - 6 members selected from a public advertisement
 - 1 representative of the Trade Unions
 - 2 co-optees drawn from former ~~Lord Mayors~~ Councillors of the City Council who are no longer ~~Councillors~~ Members of the CouncilPanel Members are appointed for a 3-year term of office.
3. The terms of reference for the Panel are:

“To consider and keep under review and, as and when appropriate, to submit reports [containing recommendations] to the Council on:

 - The amount of Basic Allowance payable to all members;
 - The responsibilities or duties in respect of which Special Responsibility, Travelling, Subsistence and Co-optees’ should be available and the amounts of such allowances;
 - Any arrangements for the withdrawal of Basic and/or Special Responsibility Allowance if a member is wholly or partially suspended;
 - Whether Dependants’ Carers’ Allowance should be payable and the amount of such an allowance;
 - Whether there is any backdating of allowances payable for the year in which an amendment is made;
 - Whether adjustments to the allowances are to be determined according to an index and if so, how long the index shall apply before review [maximum of four years];
 - Which members of an authority are entitled to pensions in accordance with a scheme made under Section 7 of the Superannuation Act 1972;
 - Whether Basic Allowance or Special Responsibility Allowance, or both, are treated as the amounts for which pensions are payable;
 - Any proposals for the introduction of an Allowances Scheme for members of a Parish Council;
 - The development of job specifications for roles and responsibilities and key accountabilities for the standard role of a Councillor and for those roles for which a Special Responsibility Allowance is or might be paid.”
4. The Member Allowances Scheme is approved by the City Council. This document can be found on the Council’s website.