

PARISH REMUNERATION PANEL

1. The **Joint Remuneration Panel** met on **17th August 2007** to consider the Members' allowances schemes for Christchurch Borough, East Dorset District and Purbeck District Councils. The Panel also acts as the **Parish Remuneration Panel** and has to recommend allowances where parish and town councils wish to introduce a scheme.
2. The Panel believes, based on the evidence received, that an overwhelming number of Councils have chosen not to implement a scheme of allowances. But for those who have implemented a scheme we feel that **as a general guide a scheme should not exceed an overall cost of £1 per member of the electorate per annum. The Regulations also make clear that the Panel has to express an allowance for Parishes as a monetary sum as well as a % of the District Council basic allowance.**
3. We set out the following as our guide to Parish Councils should they determine to introduce a scheme of basic allowances: -

Electorate	% of District Basic	Amount per Councillor £ (up to) *
0 – 2500	2.5%	90
2500 – 5000	5.0%	180
5000 – 10000	7.5%	270
10000 – 15000	10.0%	360
15000 – 20000	12.5%	450
20000 – 25000	15.0%	540
25000 and above	20.0%	720

*** Calculated on a District Basic Allowance for 2007/8 of £3,600**

4. **The Panel recommend that any scheme of travel allowances that is introduced should be based on H M Revenue and Customs mileage rate currently of 40p per mile for cars with a motor-cycle rate of 24p per mile (60% of car rate) and no allowance for bicycles. Subsistence should be based on reimbursement of receipted expenditure within the maximum limits as set out in the District Council 'officer' scheme. We suggest a list of 'Approved Duties' similar to that of the District Council, which should be kept under regular review by the Council.**
5. **We feel that in view of the number and the differences in both size and scale of activity each Parish and Town Council should determine the actual allowances within these overall parameters.** They are in the best position to make a judgement based on individual circumstances whether it is appropriate to pay:-
 - all or part of the basic allowance to reflect any incidental costs and possibly time commitment.
 - a basic allowance to all members or just the Chairman or Mayor.
 - a higher amount to Chairman or Mayor if all members are entitled to receive an allowance. We recommend a maximum of twice the basic allowance.
6. We recognise that many Parish Councils in Dorset are small and run with small precepts. **The Panel wishes to emphasise that it is not suggesting that it is appropriate for all Parishes to pay allowances and that our cost guideline of £1 per elector is a maximum figure per annum within which each Council should determine its own scheme, if this is felt justified.**