

IRP Questionnaire

* Required

Basic Allowance

1. The current Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances were set in 2009 and have remained unchanged over the last 15 years following decisions taken by Council., and often contrary to recommendations made by the Independent Remuneration Panel. The **basic allowance** for councillors is intended to recognise the time commitment of the role including (but not limited to) travel to meetings, meeting preparation, attendance, meeting with officers and residents and case work. Government guidance also states the role of an elected councillor must in part be viewed as an unpaid voluntary service. On the basis of the above, do you think the basic allowance for the role of a Durham County Councillor is?

*

- Significantly too low
- Too Low
- About right
- Too High
- Significantly too high

2. Does the current basic allowance affect **your** decision to stand for re-election? *

Yes

No

3. Do you think the current basic allowance would deter a **prospective candidate** from standing for election? *

Yes

No

4. How many hours per week on average do you spend on **Basic** Council duties? This does not apply to duties you undertake for which you receive a Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA) *

Less than 5 hours

5 - 10 hours

10 - 15 hours

15 - 20 hours

20 - 25 hours

25 - 30 hours

30 - 35 hours

35 - 40 hours

More than 40 hours

5. The elections in 2025 will see the Council Size reduce from 126 to 98 Members, the majority of Electoral Divisions change and the number of Divisions reduced. Do you think the workload of Members will increase? *

- Yes
- No
- Remain the same

6. Why do you believe this to be the case?

7. We have undertaken annual reviews of the Members Allowance Scheme for many years, however, the Regulations allow for Schemes to be reviewed four yearly (even though the council must agree the scheme annually). Do you want to continue with engaging the IRP on an annual basis or convene the IRP on a four yearly basis?

- Yes - Engage with the IRP on an annual basis

8. The Regulations allow for annual indexed uplifts to be applied. Do you think this is the correct approach or should the allowances / recommendations of the IRP apply for four years?

- Yes - annual indexed uplifts to be applied
- No - the recommendations should apply for four years
- Unsure

Special Responsibility Allowances

9. Are you currently in receipt of a Special Responsibility Allowance? *

Yes

No

10. Do you feel that the level of Special Responsibility Allowance that you currently receive is commensurate to the role that you carry out? *

Yes

No

11. If 'No' please provide more detail *

General

12. Please indicate your Gender *

- Male
- Female
- Woman
- Man
- Non-binary
- Prefer not to say

13. How many terms have you served as a Councillor? *

- 2021-2025 was my first term of office
- More than the current term

14. Do you have any other comments/observations to make on Members Allowances generally? *

