



From: Gerard Murray

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Dear Chief Executive

UPDATE ON THE REVIEW OF THE ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES OF COUNCILLORS

The Review of the Role and Responsibilities of Councillors concluded on 16 August 2024. The Minister received a copy of the report on 26 September 2024 and asked officials to consider the report carefully, and to provide him with advice on any potential cost and legislative implications of each of the recommendations which were made.

The Minister has now considered this advice and each of the recommendations in the report. The report will be published shortly on the Department's website along with a summary of the Department's response. I am writing to you now to advise that the Minister has, with Executive agreement, decided to increase the Basic Allowance for members by 5% from 1 April 2025. This would bring the maximum basic allowance to £18,329 (this includes the allowance for incidentals and consumables). Associated with this, the Minister has also decided, again with Executive agreement, to amend the legislation to transfer responsibility for setting the amount of the basic allowance actually paid to councillors from councils to DfC. However, as this will require primary legislation, this may take some time to implement.

A Local Government Circular on this issue will follow shortly.

Yours sincerely,

Director of Local Government & Housing Regulation

cc. Council Finance Officers