

I am so pleased that my posts are consistent.... After some 4,000+ of them

As usual 'someone' asked me for a comment on yesterday's FDC motion on Councillors Allowances - I don't know if any other Councillors are asked this question – I doubt it.

Firstly I will comment on yesterday's FDC meeting.

Having read **ALL** the paperwork that the Independent Pay Review Group had supplied.

I believe that in FDC's case it was a fair and well-presented case and since there had been no increases in 'allowances' since 2019 I have no issue with this. Less than 3% increase.

Remember 'I/we' Town Councillors receive NO allowances or expenses.

Now I will comment on County Council (Cambridgeshire) – The 'new' Rainbow Alliance (Labour/LibDem & Independents) have stated they will 'save' some £72,000 of the total bill because of some Committee changes. It remains to be seen whether their 'normal' allowances will remain the same.

Of course what has not been factored is the retirement of Chief Exec – Gillian Beasley. Cambs CC & Peterborough have decided not to share this post – So – Bang goes the £72,000 and the rest it will cost.

Below I am happy to post my comments on now ex leader Cllr Steve Count (Conservative) approach to allowances when he was re-elected as Leader in the previous administration.

Again I am extremely pleased that my comments on this Web-Blog remain pretty consistent – below what I posted in January 2018

Cambs County Council – Taking the Proverbial

Posted on [January 23, 2018](#) by [Roy Gerstner](#)

*Please note my terminology...you know what I mean – I am not wholly against rises in Council Taxes, but I think it rather 'smug' of Cambs CC Leader Steve Count in announcing a **2.99%** increase in our 'Rates' especially when He and his fellow councillors voted to give themselves a basic pay rise of more than £2,000, dismissing an **independent report** which advised significantly lower. But following a vote at a full council meeting (July 18th 2017) a **30%** increase to £10,315 was agreed, bringing it in line with the national average for two-tier authorities.*

| REVISED MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES (With effect from 19 July 2017) | INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL (IRP) RECOMMENDATIONS | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Role | | |
| Each Councillor | £10,315 | £8,600 |
| Group Positions | | |
| Leader of the Council | £31,745 | £25,000 |
| Deputy Leader of the Council | £20,827 | £11,250 |
| Leader of the Main Opposition (12 Seats or more) | £10,234 | £12,500 |
| Deputy Leader of the Main Opposition (12 Seats or more) | £1,790 | £5,000 |
| Leader of Minor Opposition (Based on 4 seats to 13 any allowance proportionally based on 7 seats = 100%) | £3,825 | £7,500 |
| Deputy Leader Minor Opposition (Based on 17.3% of their leadership) | £662 | £3,000 |
| Service Committees | | |
| Policy and Service Committee Chair | £18,372 | £12,500 |
| Policy and Service Committee Vice Chair | £7,927 | £4,000 |
| Area Community Champions | £5,000 | - |
| Regulatory Committees | | |
| Audit & Accounts Committee Chair | £7,345 | £7,500 |
| Pension Fund Board Chair | £7,345 | £7,500 |
| Planning Committee Chair | £7,345 | £7,500 |
| Other Roles | | |
| Adoption/Fostering Panel Member | £3,750 | £3,750 |

*A number of special responsibility allowances were also substantially increased, **in excess** of the recommendations by the council's Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP), but also in line with the national average.*

The chart above explains all....

I am sorry Mr Count am I being somewhat 'dim' here, you're quite happy to go against the Independent report but then raise our precept to almost the limit the government will allow before a referendum is triggered.