

Agenda item 7

For decision – increasing the Chair’s allowance for the remainder of 25/26

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Following Council’s decision in May 2025 regarding the Chair of Council allowance, this note proposes a temporary adjustment to reflect a change in circumstances and workload since that time. [The original report can be read on the website here.](#)

Due to the resignation of the Town Clerk, the subsequent transition period under the Acting Town Clerk, and the ongoing recruitment of a permanent Town Clerk, the Chair of the Council has been required to dedicate substantially more time to council business than was originally anticipated.

It is therefore proposed that the Chair’s allowance be increased on a temporary basis from November 2025 to April 2026, to recognise the additional responsibilities and time commitment, and to provide reasonable compensation for the resulting loss of income from her usual employment.

The proposed additional allowance is £3,750, which equates to £625 per month over the six-month period. This payment would be made on an ex-gratia and time-limited basis, funded from within the existing Members’ Allowances budget or associated reserves, and would be subject to review by Council at the end of the period.

This adjustment acknowledges the exceptional circumstances and ensures the Chair is appropriately supported during this transitional phase for the organisation.

Recommendation

Increase the Chair’s allowance by £3,750 at a cost of £625 per month for six months up to April 2026.