Further to your Information request FOI63878, please find your questions and our responses in red below:

Questions:


Response:

• To ensure that they are not financially penalised for carrying out their Council duties, Councillors receive from the Council an allowance or allowances. The allowances paid to Councillors are contained within the Council's Members Allowances Scheme.

The main allowances paid are:

• a basic allowance - paid to every Member of the Council and is intended to cover costs incurred relating to constituency duties, attending and preparing for meetings of the Council and meetings with officers, political group activities and incidental costs, such as the use of home telephones, faxes, postage and routine travelling costs;
• special responsibility allowance - paid to those Members who undertake the heaviest workloads and who play leading roles in the affairs of the Council (e.g. Leaders of Political Groups, Cabinet Members and Chairmen);
• dependants' carers' allowance - paid to those Members that make a claim to cover the cost incurred for the care of children or dependants whilst attending meetings or carrying out official duties;
• travel allowance - paid to Members that make a claim for reasonable travel expenses that have been necessarily incurred in undertaking a range of approved duties. All allowances are subject to National Insurance and income tax deductions where appropriate.

Details of the full Members Allowances Scheme is available at http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/members_allowances.htm

Full details of allowances made in the years you have requested (except 2000/01 can be found at http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/members_allowances_annual_payments.htm

Totals for the years requested are
2010/11 = £26,451.10
2009/10 = £26,223.34
2008/9 = £26,045.63
2000/01 This information is not available.

2) The total cost of RBWM Members allowances in the financial year 2000 – 2001 and each financial year from 2009 – 2011

Response:

- Details of the full Members Allowances Scheme is available at [http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/members_allowances.htm](http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/members_allowances.htm)

Full details of allowances made in the years you have requested (except 2000/01 can be found at [http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/members_allowances_annual_payments.htm](http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/members_allowances_annual_payments.htm)

Totals for the years requested are

2010/11 = £583,825.20
2009/10 = £567,611.49
2008/9 = £552,715.12
2000/01 We do not hold this information.

3) The annual percentage of RBWM tax spent on Councillor/Member allowances in the financial year 2000 – 2001 and each financial year from 2009 – 2011

Response: We do not hold this information. The majority of the Council’s costs are paid for by a combination of government grants, fees, charges and business rates and not just Council Tax therefore it is not possible to provide an exact figure.

The total gross expenditure for the Council in 2010-11 was £284,478m. Member allowances represent 0.205% of the total expenditure. Applying this same percentage to the £1,206 council tax for a band D property for 2010-11, £2.47 related to member allowances.
The total gross expenditure for the Council in 2009-10 was £305,189m. Member allowances therefore represents 0.186% of the total expenditure. Applying this same percentage to the £1,244 council tax for a band D property for 2009-10, £2.31 related to member allowances.

The total gross expenditure for the Council in 2008-9 was £285.627m. Member allowances therefore represents 0.194% of the total expenditure. Applying this same percentage to the £1,215 council tax for a band D property for 2008-9, £2.36 related to member allowances.

4) The number of RBWM Members enrolled onto the Local Government Pension Scheme in the financial year 2000 – 2001 -

Response: None.


Response:
2010/2011 £7,545,400,
2009/2010 £7,627,900,
2008/2009 £7,288,600
2000/2001 We do not hold this information.

6) The annual percentage of RBWM tax spent on employer contributions into the Local Government Pension Scheme in the financial year 2000 – 2001 and each financial year from 2009 – 2011

Response:
Please note that the majority of the Council’s costs are paid for by a combination of government grants, fees, charges and business rates and not just Council Tax therefore it is not possible to provide this exact figure.

The total gross expenditure for the Council in 2010-11 was £284.478m. Pensions therefore represents 2.65% of the total expenditure. Applying this same percentage to the £1,206 council
tax for a band D property for 2010-11, £31.96 related to pension costs.

The total gross expenditure for the Council in 2009-10 was £305,189m. Pensions therefore represents 2.50% of the total expenditure. Applying this same percentage to the £1,244 council tax for a band D property for 2009-10, £31.10 related to pension costs.

The total gross expenditure for the Council in 2008-9 was £285.627m. Pensions therefore represents 2.55% of the total expenditure. Applying this same percentage to the £1,215 council tax for a band D property for 2008-9, £30.62 related to pension costs.

This concludes your request FOI63878.

If you require translation of the information you have been sent please do not hesitate the contact us.

If you are unhappy with the information we have provided in response to your request please write to:

Information Management Team Manager
Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead
Town Hall, St Ives Road
Maidenhead
SL6 1RF

or send an e-mail to martin.tubbs@rbwm.gov.uk

We are proud to be one of the leading authorities in England for consistently responding to information requests within the 20 working days set down by statute. Information about our performance and summaries of requests received can be found on our website:

http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/foi_information_request_statistics.htm

We are keen to hear about your experience with the Information Management Team here at the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead and look forward to receiving any comments you have about the way your information request was processed.

Please send any feedback to the Information Management Team Manager either by e-mail martin.tubbs@rbwm.gov.uk or in writing to the address above.

Yours sincerely