

BOLSOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL

Meeting of Council on 20th May 2026

Revision to the Members' Allowances Scheme

Report of the Strategic Director of Legal, Governance and Monitoring Officer

Classification	This report is Public
Contact Officer	Jim Fieldsend, Strategic Director of Legal, Governance and Monitoring Officer

PURPOSE/SUMMARY OF REPORT`

To inform Council of the Government's commitment to facilitate access to the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) for members and revision to the Members' Allowances Scheme.

REPORT DETAILS

1. Background

- 1.1 The 'Local Government Pension Scheme in England and Wales: Scheme improvements (access and protections)' consultation was carried out by Central Government between 13 October 2025 and closed on 22 December 2025.
- 1.2 This has resulted in the Government's commitment to facilitate access to the LGPS to all elected members from 11 May 2026.

2. Details of Proposal or Information

- 2.1 From May 2026, Members will be able to join the LGPS on an opt-in basis with the basic allowance or special responsibility allowance (or both as the case may be) being treated as an amount in respect of which a pension is payable.
- 2.2 Membership of the LGPS will be on the same basis as given to other, non-elected, members of the LGPS, with a small number of exceptions to reflect the different employment status of Members. Safeguards, such as not allowing employers to contribute to additional pension contributions or additional voluntary contributions. These will be captured in a new Regulations that is yet to be published.
- 2.3 If Members opt-in to the LGPS, they will be required to contribute a percentage of their allowance as set out in the contribution rates which can be found on the

Derbyshire Fund website. Contribution band ranges are increased each April in line with the rise in the Retail Price Index.

2.4 Following the last review of the Members' Allowances Scheme completed in 2023/2024 and the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel, Council resolved that there would be no changes to the level of the Basic Allowance; the Special Responsibility Allowances or other parts of the scheme. There would be no increases in the scheme until the completion of the next review of the Members' Allowances Scheme scheduled to be carried out in 2027.

2.5 The revised Members' Allowance Scheme is attached as **Appendix 1** to the report and includes the following additions:

- (3) With effect from 11th May 2026, all Members (excluding Co-opted Members) shall be entitled to opt-in to a pension in accordance with a scheme made under section 1 of the Public Service Pension Act 2013.

In this Scheme:-

- (i) The Local Government Pension scheme in which qualifying Members may participate is the Derbyshire Pension Fund, provided by Derbyshire County Council.
- (ii) Members' Basic Allowance or Special Responsibility Allowance (or both, as the case may be) shall be treated as an amount in respect of which such a pension is payable.
- (iii) As a member of the Scheme, Members will be required to contribute a percentage of their allowance as set out in the contribution rate table which can be found on the Derbyshire Pension Fund website. Contribution band ranges will be increased each April in line with the rise in the Retail Price Index.

2.6 The potential cost of these changes is summarised in the table below based on the assumption of a 100% opt-in rate:

Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances	Annual Allowance £	Multiples	Totals £	Employer LGPS contribution £
Basic Allowance	9,902.44	37	366,390.28	71,079.71
Leader of the Authority	14, 672.16	1	14, 672.16	2,848.40
Deputy Leader of the Authority	9,781.44	1	9,781.44	1,897.60
Members of the Executive	4,890.72	6	29,344.32	5,692.80

Chair of Scrutiny Committee	3,260.48	4	13,041.92	2,530.13
Vice Chair of Scrutiny Committee	1,630.24	4	6,520.96	1,265.07
Largest Opposition Political Group Leader	4,890.72	1	4,890.72	948.80
Chair of Planning Committee	4,890.72	1	4,890.72	948.80
Vice Chair of Planning Committee	2,445.36	1	2,445.36	474.40
Chair of Licensing Committee	3,260.48	1	3,260.48	632.53
Vice Chair of Licensing Committee	1,630.24	1	1,630.24	316.27
Chair of Standards Committee (co-optee)	1,222.00		N/A	
Chair of Audit Committee	1,467.00	1	1,467.00	284.60
Junior Executive Member	2,445.36	6	14,672.16	2,846.42
TOTAL			473,007.76	91,763.53

2.7 This is an increase of £91,763.53. Members are reminded that this figure is based on a 100% opt-in by Members.

2.8 Information will be shared with Members relating to the pension scheme with relevant details on becoming a member, contributions and options.

3. Reasons for Recommendations

3.1 The report recommends changes to the Members' Allowances Scheme following the commitment by Central Government to enable Members to opt-in to the LGPS with effect from 11th May 2026.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

4.1 None – the Council is required to update its Members' Allowances Scheme following changes being implemented by Central Government.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

- (1) That Council notes that with effect from 11th May 2026 Members are able to opt-in to the LGPS provided by Derbyshire Pension Fund.
 - (2) That Council notes the additional costs to the Scheme as set out in paragraphs 2.6 and 2.7 (based on a 100% opt-in).
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<u>Finance and Risk</u> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
Details: The Employer LGPS contributions of £91,763.53, will be a cost to the Council's general fund. <p style="text-align: right;">On behalf of the Section 151 Officer</p>		
<u>Legal (including Data Protection)</u> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
Details: The Council is complying with the provisions of the anticipated regulation to facilitate access to the LGPS to all Elected Members from 11 May 2026. <p style="text-align: right;">On behalf of the Solicitor to the Council</p>		
<u>Staffing</u> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Details: There are no staffing implications arising from this report. <p style="text-align: right;">On behalf of the Head of Paid Service</p>		
<u>Equality and Diversity, and Consultation</u> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Details: There are no Equality and Diversity, and Consultation implications arising from this report.		
<u>Environment</u> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Please identify (if applicable) how this proposal/report will help the Authority meet its carbon neutral target or enhance the environment. Details: There are no Environmental implications arising from this report.		

DECISION INFORMATION

<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Please indicate which threshold applies:</p> <p>Is the decision a Key Decision? A Key Decision is an Executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more wards in the District or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds:</p> <p>Revenue (a) Results in the Council making Revenue Savings of £75,000 or more or (b) Results in the Council incurring Revenue Expenditure of £75,000 or more.</p> <p>Capital (a) Results in the Council making Capital Income of £150,000 or more or (b) Results in the Council incurring Capital Expenditure of £150,000 or more.</p> <p>District Wards Significantly Affected: <i>(to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards in the District)</i> Please state below which wards are affected or tick All if all wards are affected: None</p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>(a) <input type="checkbox"/> (b) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>(a) <input type="checkbox"/> (b) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>All <input type="checkbox"/></p>
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<p>Is the decision subject to Call-In? <i>(Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)</i></p> <p>If Yes, is the call-in period to be waived in respect of the decision(s) proposed within this report? <i>(decisions may only be classified as exempt from call-in with the agreement of the Monitoring Officer)</i></p> <p>Consultation carried out: <i>(this is any consultation carried out prior to the report being presented for approval)</i></p> <p>Leader <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deputy Leader <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Executive <input type="checkbox"/> SLT <input type="checkbox"/> Relevant Service Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Members <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
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<p>Links to Council Ambition: Customers, Economy, Environment, Housing</p>
<p>Customers</p>

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

Appendix No	Title
1	Members' Allowances Scheme

Background Papers

(These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Executive you must provide copies of the background papers).

1. [Local Government Pension Scheme in England and Wales: Access for Elected Members - government response - GOV.UK](#)
2. [Home - Derbyshire Pension Fund](#)