

Extract from Guidance on Consolidated Regulations relating to SRA’s taken from “New Council Constitutions” issued by the ODPM.

The Regulations do not limit the number of special responsibility allowances (SRA’S) which may be paid nor do the regulations prohibit the payment of more than one SRA to any one member.

However, these are important considerations for local authorities. If the majority of members of a council receive an SRA, the local electorate may rightly question whether this was justified. Local authorities will wish to consider very carefully the additional roles of members and the significance of these roles, both in terms of responsibility and real time commitment before deciding which will warrant the payment of an SRA.

It does not necessarily follow that a particular responsibility, which is vested to a particular member, is a significant additional responsibility for which an SRA should be paid. Local authorities will need to consider such particular responsibilities very carefully. While such responsibilities may be unique to a particular member, it may be that all or most members have some such responsibility to varying degrees. Such duties may not lead to a significant extra workload for any one particular member above another. These sorts of responsibilities should be recognised as a time commitment to council work, which is acknowledged within the basic allowance and not responsibilities for which an SRA should be recommended.

In addition, any particular local authority will need to look carefully at the nature of its constitution when determining its scheme. New arrangements will mean that there are inevitable changes in the positions of responsibility on the Council, both in terms of number and workload. Some councillors will be spending significantly more of their time on council duties than has ever previously been the case. On the other hand, changes in the traditional committee structure will mean that there are far fewer committees and, as a consequence, fewer councillors engaged as chairs and vice-chairs of numerous committees.