

(CCC) The collection of party political subscriptions from councillors allowances in 2019-2020 and 2020-2021.

1. Does the council collect, from councillors allowances, funds which are then passed to a political party?
2. Please give the reason why the council is collecting, from councillors allowances, funds for a political party
3. Please advise the annual amount collected and paid to each individually named political party
4. Has NI and Tax been deducted before the funds are collected?
5. What is the cost to the council for making these deductions and arranging bank transfers or cheque payments?
6. What bank charges are incurred in transferring the funds or cheque payments?

Response

1. Does the council collect, from councillors allowances, funds which are then passed to a political party?
All Councillor's receive allowances in line with the Councillor Allowances Scheme. These allowances are paid directly to Members. Only the Labour Party Members have their membership subscriptions deducted directly from their allowances.
2. Please give the reason why the council is collecting, from councillors allowances, funds for a political party.
The payments are made on the request of the party members.
3. Please advise the annual amount collected and paid to each individually named political party
2019/20 = £14972.31
2020/21 = £16614.75
These sums were paid to Cambridge Labour Party
4. Has NI and Tax been deducted before the funds are collected?
Yes, all such deductions are after tax and NI.
5. What is the cost to the council for making these deductions and arranging bank transfers or cheque payments?
Payments processed as part of monthly payroll so no additional resource required and no extra costs incurred
6. What bank charges are incurred in transferring the funds or cheque payments?
There is a 0.015p charge per bacs transaction, amounting to a £0.18 to undertake these payments

Further queries on this matter should be directed to foi@cambridge.gov.uk