

Kent County Councillors have just voted themselves a 15% pay increase

[kentlive.news/kent-county-councillors-have-just-voted-themselves-a-15-pay-increase/story-30438845-detail/story.html](https://www.kentlive.news/kent-county-councillors-have-just-voted-themselves-a-15-pay-increase/story-30438845-detail/story.html)

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14:42 Safe to say people are not pleased about this..

14:46 "Who is going to pay for the pay rise?"

Labour councillor for Margate, Barry Lewis is one of those who spoke out against the proposals.

He said: "Who is going to pay for the pay rise.

"We have already been told today there is a shortfall. Unless Paul Carter has a magic money tree in his back garden , it's going to be the residents who will be paying.

"And who are the residents? They include hard working families including firefighters, including nurses, including teachers etc.."

14:50 A lot of people are making a comparison with our emergency services

In a popular post on the Kent Live Facebook page one person said: "They will defend this increase by saying its only for a few councillors so affordable ,meantime our fire fighters nurses doctors and teachers will have to make do with 2% if they are lucky."

14:51

15:04 Paul Carter defended the increase

Leader Paul Carter said the increase was well below inflation and what staff had been paid at the authority.

15:17 Rebel Rebel

The proposal was so controversial Jeremy Kite actually voted against his own party.

"I think we have to justify ourselves constantly to the people of this county and we have to take into account their feelings, £1.6 million people."

15:21 Still haven't found anyone supportive of this yet...

15:30 The youngest councillor also had his say

Dara Farrell (Lab) who represents Ashford said: "I cannot look my neighbours in the eye and say I voted for an increase in my pay."

15:49 The Taxpayers Alliance has waded into the debate

James Price, Grassroots Campaign Manager at the TaxPayers' Alliance, said: "Taxpayers have every right to be angry at this huge above inflation rise.

"Despite Kent County Council pleading poverty and raising council tax this year, they have someone found this extra money down the back of the sofa - against independent advice - to line their own pockets.

"With the nation's finances yet to be fixed, councillors across the country will continue to have to make difficult decisions.

"In order for them to have the moral authority to carry out that important job, councillors must show restraint when it comes to their own taxpayer-funded allowances and ease the burden on hard-pressed families."

15:55 The Liberal Democrats called for the councillors to accept the independent advice

16:34 Paul Cooper on why the increase makes sense

The Conservative councillor for Maidstone South said: "I think there has already been a lot of emphasis on the amount of remuneration we already receive.

"In terms of an increase this is somewhat regardless as we have been receiving this for eight years, there has been no increase for eight years.

"In fact eight years ago members of this authority took what in my view is an incredible good and well-regarded decision to take a decrease in what people are paid.

"Over that time staff members in this authority have received on average a 15 per cent increase, we should therefore have the same.

16:36 People are still quite riled by what has happened this afternoon