

# **LONDON BOROUGH OF HACKNEY 2016**

## **Members' Allowances Scheme - Mayoral Advisers**

### **Report of Sir Rodney Brooke CBE DL**

1. In 2015 I reviewed the Members' Allowances Scheme of the London Borough of Hackney, advising the Council on the application of the recommendations of the London Members' Allowances Panel to the Council's Scheme. The council accepted and implemented the recommendations in my report.
2. Following the resignation of Mayor Pipe on 29 July 2016, Councillor Philip Glanville was elected as Mayor on 15 September 2016. Mayor Glanville was the former portfolio holder for housing. The new Mayor wishes to adjust responsibilities within the authority. He has appointed three additional Cabinet members, one of whom is intended to be part-time. The new Cabinet members were appointed on 21 September 2016.
3. For different reasons (such as external employment) some Cabinet members do not give all their time to the Council. In Hackney Council there is a convention that Cabinet members who do not give all their time to the Council, will not claim the full Special Responsibility Allowance attaching to the post. The Cabinet member for Finance currently claims only 50% of the Cabinet members' special responsibility allowance. This seems to me a valuable convention. It does not form part of the Members' Allowances Scheme, but allows flexibility in the allocation of Cabinet portfolios and enables the Mayor to develop and make the best use of the available talents of councillors.
4. As well as the additional Cabinet members, the Mayor has appointed two Mayoral advisers. They assumed their duties on 26 September 2016. One adviser has responsibility for housing needs; rough sleeping; homelessness; refugees; advice services; and domestic abuse and intimate partner violence. The other has responsibility for private sector housing; housing affordability; and promoting shared ownership and other intermediate

products. The Mayor believes these roles to be essential because of the prevalence and acuteness of housing problems in the Borough.

5. The Mayoral advisers will not be Cabinet members and will not share in the collective decision-making of the Cabinet. However, they will assume direct responsibilities for their portfolios and will report direct to the Cabinet and to the Council in their own names. They will answer questions in Council. They will be required to participate in daytime meetings, reducing their eligibility for paid employment outside the Council. Although the roles are new, the responsibilities will no doubt increase over time. Their executive responsibility warrants a Special Responsibility Allowance. From discussions with the Mayor and Chief Executive, it seems that an appropriate comparator is the Special Responsibility Allowance of £14,963.06 paid to the Chair of the Pensions Committee.
6. The cost of the changes in administration can be contained within the existing budget for members' allowances.

### **Recommendation**

A Special Responsibility Allowance of £14,963.06 be allocated to the role of Mayoral Adviser.

**Rodney Brooke**

**24 October 2016**