

AMENDMENT TO THE MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME 2019/20**COUNCIL****26 JUNE 2019****CLASSIFICATION:****OPEN****WARD(S) AFFECTED****ALL WARDS****TIM SHIELDS, CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 Each year the Council is legally required to consider and agree a Members' Allowances Scheme.
- 1.2 The Council is part of joint arrangements provided by London Council's Independent Remuneration Panel. The Council has Sir Rodney Brooke CBE DL acting as independent adviser on Members' Allowances. (Sir Rodney Brooke is also Chair of London Councils Independent Remuneration Panel).
- 1.3 The Scheme for 2019/20 is unchanged from that approved by Members in January 2019, save for the equivalent increase in allowances as the impact of the agreed national pay settlement for local government officers for 2019/20.
- 1.4 The draft Members' Allowances Scheme for 2019/20 that relates to the report and recommendations is included at Appendix 1 for Council to consider.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Council is recommended to agree the report and the amended Members' Allowances Scheme for 2019/20 attached at Appendix 1.

3. COMMENTS OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR, FINANCE AND CORPORATE RESOURCES

- 3.1 The Members Allowance Scheme for 2019/20 is detailed in Appendix 1 and has been updated to reflect the national pay settlement for Local Government Officers for 2019/20. This report seeks approval to implement the updated scheme.
- 3.2 The Members Allowance scheme budget for 2019/20 is £1.35m. This has been increased from the 2018/19 budget in line with the national pay settlement.

4. COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL

- 4.1 Section 18 (1) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 permits that the Secretary of State may, by regulations, make a scheme providing for the payment of a basic allowance, attendance allowance and special responsibility allowance to Members of a Local Authority.
- 4.2 Section 18 (2A) stipulates that regulations may also authorise or require a scheme made by a Local Authority to include provision for payment to Members of the Council of allowances in respect of expenses in arranging for the care of children or dependants as are necessarily incurred in carrying out their duties as Members.
- 4.2 In exercise of these powers the Secretary of State has issued the Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England)

Regulations 2003 and subsequent amendments, hereafter referred to as “the Regulations”. The Regulations require that the Council make a scheme before the beginning of each year for the payment of a basic allowance. The scheme must also make provision for the Council’s approach to a special responsibility allowance, dependent’s and carer’s allowance, travelling and subsistence allowance and co-optees allowance.

- 4.3 In accordance with the Regulations, the Council is required to make arrangements for the publication of the scheme once it has been made. The form of publication must be in conformity with Regulation 16(1)(a) and Regulation 16(1)(b).
- 4.4 Pursuant to Part 2, Article 4, 4.6 of the Council’s Constitution, it is a function of Full Council to adopt a Members Allowance Scheme.
- 4.5 In considering this scheme, the Council must have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful conduct under the Equality Act 2010. The Council must also have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and the need to foster good relations between persons who share a protected characteristic and those who do not, in line with the public sector equality duty placed on all public bodies pursuant to Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010.

Tim Shields
Chief Executive

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Amended Members’ Allowances Scheme for 2019/20

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

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