

Title of Report	Members' Allowances Scheme 2022/23
For Consideration By	Council
Meeting Date	25 January 2023
Classification	Open
Ward(s) Affected	All
Group Director	Mark Carroll, Chief Executive

1. **Summary**

- 1.1. Each year the Council is legally required to consider and agree a Members' Allowances Scheme.
- 1.2. The Scheme is based on recommendations of the Independent Panel of London Councils in their report; The Remuneration of Councillors in London 2022 and an independent report and recommendations for Hackney by Sir Rodney Brooke CBE DL, who is a member of the London Councils Independent Panel.
- 1.3. The current Scheme for 2022/23 was approved by Council in June 2022, but did not include any increases in allowances in line with the agreed national pay settlement for local government as negotiations were still in progress.
- 1.4. The national pay settlement (for April 2022) has now been agreed and for inner London Boroughs this is a flat rate award of £2,355.00 rather than the usual percentage increase. The Council's Members' Allowances Scheme is normally uplifted by this settlement percentage amount.
- 1.5. The pay award of a flat rate amount has meant a different approach has been needed this year to apply the award. This has been done with the following principles.
 - 1.5.1. No increase when combining the Basic Allowance and Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA) will exceed the officer pay award of £2,355.00.
 - 1.5.2. The Basic Allowance will increase to equal the recently updated London Council's independent panel report - The Remuneration of Councillors in London 2022 ; that being £12,014.00. This new Basic Allowance equates to a percentage increase of 5.5%.

- 1.5.3. SRAs are increased if below the London Council's report to aim to align them, but no increase when combined with the Basic Allowance increase can total more than £2,355.00.
- 1.5.4. SRAs already within the London Councils bandings receive an increase of 5.5% in line with the Basic Allowance increase, but capped to again ensure no increase when combined with the Basic Allowance increase exceeds £2,355.00.
- 1.6. Appendix 1 of this report details the recommended Members Allowances Scheme for 2022/23 for approval.
- 1.7. There are no changes to the content of the scheme other than the amounts of the allowances.

2. **Recommendations**

- 2.1. **Full Council is recommended to agree the report and the Members' Allowances Scheme 2022/23 (Updated January 2023) attached at Appendix 1.**

3. **Comments of the Group Director of Finance and Corporate Resources.**

- 3.1. The Members Allowance Scheme for 2022/23 is detailed in Appendix 1 and has been updated to reflect the national pay settlement for Local Government Officers for 2022/23 and the principles outlined in paragraph 1.5 above.
- 3.2. The Members Allowance Scheme will be fully funded from the existing budget allocation of £1.49m for 2022/23.

4. **Comments of the Director of Legal, Democratic and Electoral Services**

- 4.1. Section 18(1) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 enables the Secretary of State to make, by regulations, a scheme providing for the payment of a basic allowance, attendance allowance and special responsibility allowance to Members of a Local Authority. Section 18(2A) stipulates that regulations may also authorise or require a scheme made by a Local Authority to include provision for payment of allowances to Members of the Council 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. 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 of the Council's Constitution, it is a function of Full Council to adopt the Members' Allowance Scheme.
- 4.5. In considering this scheme, the Council must have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and 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.

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Members' Allowances Scheme 2022/23 (Updated January 2023)

Exempt

None

Background documents

None

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