

<b>Title of Report</b>	Members' Allowances Scheme 2023/24
<b>For Consideration By</b>	Council
<b>Meeting Date</b>	24 July 2023
<b>Classification</b>	Open
<b>Ward(s) Affected</b>	All
<b>Group Director</b>	Ian Williams, Acting 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 Members Allowances Scheme takes account of the officer national pay settlement (in April each year) in its formulation. There is no agreed settlement in place yet for April 2023, therefore the 2022/23 Scheme rates are being rolled forwards for 2023/24 to meet legal obligations (of having an approved scheme in place for each year) until the national pay settlement for local government negotiations are concluded.
- 1.4. A revised scheme for 2023/24 will be brought to Council for approval once the pay negotiations have concluded.
- 1.5. Appendix 1 of this report details the Members Allowances Scheme for 2023/24 for approval.
- 1.6. There are no changes to the content of the scheme other than updating the recent role name change of Deputy Cabinet Member from Cabinet Adviser.

## 2. **Recommendations**

- 2.1. **Full Council is recommended to agree the report and the Members' Allowances Scheme 2023/24 attached at Appendix 1.**

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

- 3.1. The Members Allowance Scheme for 2023/24 is detailed in Appendix 1. This has not yet been updated to reflect any national pay settlement for Local Government Officers for 2023/24 as this has not yet been settled. A further report on the 2023/24 Scheme will be presented to Council for approval once the national pay settlement is agreed..
- 3.2. The Members Allowance Scheme will be fully funded from the existing budget allocation of £1.62m for 2023/24.

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 2023/24

### **Background documents**

The Remuneration of Councillors in London 2022 - Report of the Independent Panel. Published by London Councils, January 2022.

<https://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/node/39359>

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