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| Title of Report | Members' Allowances Scheme 2023/24 |
| For Consideration By | Council |
| Meeting Date | 24 January 2024 |
| Classification | Open |
| Ward(s) Affected | All |
| Group Director | Dawn Carter-McDonald, Interim 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 2023/24 was approved by Council in June 2023, 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.
- 1.1. The national pay settlement (for April 2023) has now been agreed and for inner London Boroughs this is a flat rate award of £2,352.00 for full time employees up to Spinal Point 50 and 3.88% for those on Spinal Point 51 and above. The Council's Members' Allowances Scheme is normally uplifted by the national pay settlement percentage amount; which is 3.88% (some officers receiving higher than this if they received the fixed £2,352.00 amount).
- 1.4. The Members' Allowances Scheme for 2023/24 has been uplifted by 3.88% across the board in line with the pay award. Appendix 1 of this report details the revised Members Allowances Scheme for 2023/24 for approval.
- 1.1. 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 2023/24 (Updated January 2024) attached at Appendix 1.**

3. **Comments of the Interim Director of Finance**

- 3.1. The Members Allowance Scheme for 2023/24 is detailed in Appendix 1. This has been updated to reflect any national pay settlement for Local Government Officers for 2023/24 and the principles outlined in the summary.
- 3.2. The Members Allowance Scheme will be fully funded from the existing budget allocation of £1.63m for 2023/24.

4. **Comments of the Acting 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 (Updated January 2024)

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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