

NOTICE OF MEETING

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 21st March, 2023, 7.00 pm - George Meehan House, 294 High Road, Wood Green, N22 8JZ (watch the live meeting, [Here](#) or watch the recording [here](#))

Councillors: Felicia Opoku (Chair), Ibrahim Ali, Barbara Blake, Scott Emery and Reg Rice

Quorum: 3

1. FILMING AT MEETINGS

Please note this meeting may be filmed or recorded by the Council for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's internet site or by anyone attending the meeting using any communication method. Members of the public participating in the meeting (e.g. making deputations, asking questions, making oral protests) should be aware that they are likely to be filmed, recorded or reported on. By entering the 'meeting room', you are consenting to being filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings.

The Chair of the meeting has the discretion to terminate or suspend filming or recording, if in his or her opinion continuation of the filming, recording or reporting would disrupt or prejudice the proceedings, infringe the rights of any individual, or may lead to the breach of a legal obligation by the Council.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive any apologies for absence.

3. URGENT BUSINESS

The Chair will consider the admission of any late items of Urgent Business. (Late items will be considered under the agenda item where they appear. New items will be dealt with under item 9&13 below).

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

A member with a disclosable pecuniary interest or a prejudicial interest in a matter who attends a meeting of the authority at which the matter is considered:

(i) must disclose the interest at the start of the meeting or when the interest becomes apparent, and

(ii) may not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter and must withdraw from the meeting room.

A member who discloses at a meeting a disclosable pecuniary interest which is not registered in the Register of Members' Interests or the subject of a pending notification must notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest within 28 days of the disclosure.

Disclosable pecuniary interests, personal interests and prejudicial interests are defined at Paragraphs 5-7 and Appendix A of the Members' Code of Conduct.

5. MINUTES (PAGES 1 - 4)

To confirm and sign the minutes of the Standards Committee meeting held on the 24th of January 2023.

6. CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES AND COMMITTEE CHANGES 2022/23 2023/24

Report to follow

7. MEMBERS ALLOWANCES SCHEME FOR 2023- 2024 (PAGES 5 - 32)

8. COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME (PAGES 33 - 34)

This paper seeks to identify topics that will come to the attention of the Standards Committee and seeks members' input.

9. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

As per item 3.

10. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

To note the dates of future meetings:

22nd of June 2023

31 October 2023

30th of Jan 2024

5th of March 2024

11. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Items 12 -13 are likely to be subject to a motion to exclude the press and public from the meeting as they contain exempt information as defined in Section 100a of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by Section 12A of the Local Government Act 1985); paras 1 & 2; namely, information relating to any individual and information likely to reveal the identity of an individual.

12. EXEMPT MINUTES (PAGES 35 - 36)

To confirm and sign the exempt minutes of the Standards Committee meeting held on 24th of January 2023.

13. NEW ITEMS OF EXEMPT URGENT BUSINESS

As per item 3.

Ayshe Simsek, Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager
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Fiona Alderman
Head of Legal & Governance (Monitoring Officer)
George Meehan House, 294 High Road, Wood Green, N22 8JZ

Monday, 13 March 2023

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**MINUTES OF MEETING Standards Committee HELD ON
Tuesday, 24th January, 2023, 7.00pm**

PRESENT:

**Councillors: Felicia Opoku (Chair), Ibrahim Ali, Barbara Blake,
Scott Emery and Reg Rice**

ALSO ATTENDING: Fiona Alderman and Ayshe Simsek

29. FILMING AT MEETINGS

The chair referred to the notice of filming at meetings and members noted this information.

30. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were apologies for absence.

31. URGENT BUSINESS

There was no public urgent business and Cllr Emery would raise an exempt matter at item 40.

32. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest put forward.

33. MINUTES

The chair referred to the action concerning the wider circulation of the guidance on Outside Bodies and noted that this would be added to the Members weekly communication newsletter.

RESOLVED

To approve the minutes of the public meeting held on the 4th of October 2022.

34. MEMBERS ALLOWANCES SCHEME FOR 2023- 2024

The Democratic Services and Scrutiny manager introduced the report which sought consideration of the Member's Allowance Scheme proposed for 2023/24 municipal year and recommend the final scheme for approval by full Council on the 27 of March 2023, in accordance with Article 14.03 of the Council's Constitution.

Before it could adopt a Members Allowances Scheme, the Council had a duty to consider the recommendations of an Independent Remuneration Panel in relation to the payment of Members Allowances.

The Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 allowed London Boroughs to use an Independent Remuneration Panel set up for the purpose of making recommendations across London. London Councils set up a panel for this purpose in 2001 and its most recent report was published on the 14th of January 2022 and considered by the Committee on 25th of January 2022 and subsequently in March 2022.

It was noted that the Independent Review Panel was undertaking a detailed review, with recommendations on the remuneration of Councillors in London expected at the end of 2023.

Mike Cooke, the Chair of the Independent Panel for Member Remuneration in London, was currently collecting information from councils on councillors' roles, responsibilities and how workload pressures had changed over the past 12 months following the end of Covid19 Pandemic restrictions. This information would help inform the research that the Independent Panel is currently undertaking. The Democratic Services and Scrutiny Team had provided this information.

It was noted that although the IRP report in 2022 makes recommendations, it was for each individual Council to decide the level of remuneration and for which roles. The 2018 recommendations were also previously considered in the 2019/20 independent review carried out by the Standards Committee.

The following information was noted by the Committee included:

- It was not known the difference between London Member Allowances and more nationally.
- MPs did not get involved with the review of their allowances and this was completed by a separate committee.
- The IRP report indicated that basic allowance could be between £12k to £14k.
- The SRA bandings were last updated in 2017-18.
- The latest increase was to the Basic Allowance and this was in March 2020 when this was increased by 2%.
- There was no increase in SRA's or the Basic Allowance in 2022 as it was not felt appropriate given the economic situation and public sector workers had also not received an increase at the time.
- This year there had been a pay increase for public sector workers and the IRP report indicated that the Council's Basic Allowance scheme was below the recommended banding.

Comments from the Committee on the report were:

- Considering the increased community facing role of councillors which involves public speaking and further dealing with increasingly complex and sensitive casework.
- Considering taking forward a review of the potential wider changes to the Member Allowance scheme to ensure that responsibilities and roles were appropriately remunerated. This would need to be an open and accountable process with conclusions clearly set out to the public.
- The financial implications of increasing the Member Basic Allowance Scheme were noted. However, if the Basic Allowance increase was not agreed for the 2023/2024 year this would mean 3 years without an increase and any, later increase to be in line with national increases, would involve a higher percentage number.
- Ensuring the Member's Allowance Scheme was able to attract councillors from a wide demographic, the local community, and those with caring responsibilities.

The Democratic services and Scrutiny Manager outlined that there was no current budget allocation for an increase in the Basic Allowance as there had not been political indications of this. Ideally, any proposed increase should have been indicated and been put forward in September 2022 to have this included in the Council budget proposals that was due for consideration on the 2nd of March at full Council.

The Democratic Services Manager further advised that a review of the Member Allowance Scheme was undertaken by an Independent Advisor to the Committee between June 2019 and March 2020 and none of the recommendations regarding the special responsibility allowances had been agreed apart from a 1.75% increase for the 2020 – 2021 year. If a further review of the scheme was to be taken forward in the 2023/2024 year, this would need political agreement in the summer 2023 to enable a budget allocation to be proposed in September 2023.

It was also noted that the Members Allowance scheme could be updated at any point in the municipal year to allow further political and financial discussions.

The Committee were advised that if they were minded to take forward a review of the scheme, the last review had involved detailed research and surveys compiled by the Democratic services team supporting the independent advisor who had also been remunerated and the cost of this would need to be considered.

RESOLVED

To note the report and consider a further report at the 21st of March meeting.

35. COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

Agreed to add to the meeting in June 2023:

- Recent developments in the ethical standards of elected members that might be of interest to members of the Standards Committee in its role of promoting and maintaining high standard of conduct.
- Annual report on Councillor Complaints

Noted that the Council did try to avoid scheduling committee meetings in school holidays and special meetings were only added on an exceptional basis.

36. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

None

37. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

21st of March 2023

38. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED

To exclude the press and public from the meeting as the reports contained exempt information as defined in Section 100a of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by Section 12A of the Local Government Act 1985); paras 1 & 2; namely, information relating to any individual and information likely to reveal the identity of an individual.

39. EXEMPT MINUTES

To approve the exempt minutes of the meetings held on the 4th of October 2022 and 1 November 2022.

40. NEW ITEMS OF EXEMPT URGENT BUSINESS

As per the exempt minutes.

CHAIR: Councillor Felicia Opoku

Signed by Chair

Date

Report for: Standards Committee 21 March 2023

Title: Members Allowances Scheme for 2023- 2024

Report authorised by : Head of Legal and Governance Fiona Alderman

Lead Officer: Ayshe Simsek - Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager

Ward(s) affected: N/A

**Report for Key/
Non-Key Decision:** Non key decision

1. Describe the issue under consideration.

- 1.1 Each year before 31st March, full Council is required by the Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 to adopt a Members Allowances Scheme for the following financial year.

2. Cabinet Member Introduction

N/A

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 To consider the changes to the Members' Allowances Scheme set out at paragraph 6.13 and reflected at Appendix 1 to the report.
- 3.2 To recommend that the Members' Allowances Scheme 2023/24 attached at Appendix 1 be adopted by Full Council on 27 March 2023.

4. Reasons for decision

- 4.1 The Council has a legal duty to approve a Members Allowances Scheme before the end of each year to cover the following year. The Council can amend a scheme any time during the year but can only revoke a scheme with effect from the beginning of the year. The scheme must make provision for basic allowances and, if they are to be paid, special responsibility, dependents' carers, travelling and subsistence and co-optees allowances.

5. Alternative options considered.

- 5.1 No alternative options were considered as there is a duty to adopt a members' allowance scheme annually.

6. Background information

- 6.1 This report asks Standards Committee to consider the scheme proposed for 2023/24 municipal year and recommend the final scheme for approval by full Council on the 27 of March 2023, in accordance with Article 14.03 of the Council's Constitution.
- 6.2 Before it can adopt a Members Allowances Scheme the Council has a duty to consider the recommendations of an Independent Remuneration Panel in relation to the payment of Members Allowances.
- 6.3 The Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 allow London Boroughs to use an Independent Remuneration Panel set up for the purpose of making recommendations across London. London Councils set up a panel for this purpose in 2001 and its most recent report was published on the 14th of January 2022 and considered by the Committee on 25th of January 2022 and subsequently in March 2022, it was not felt appropriate to agree any increases to Member's Allowances given the current economic climate together with steep increases in the cost of living being faced by residents.
- 6.4 The report at appendix 2 highlights the challenges to recruiting and attracting new councillors and the difficulties in London with higher living costs. The report discusses reaching a good balance on the level of allowances. This is aiming to ensure that the Basic Allowance and Special Responsibility Allowances are not acting as an incentive to undertake these roles but equally not becoming a financial disincentive. The key issue highlighted is the lack of access of councillors to the local government pension scheme. This can be particularly financially challenging to councillors who take on leadership and portfolio roles for a long period to the detriment of their own careers. This issue will be explored in the 2022/23 review.
- 6.5 The 2022 IRP report continues to recommend that the Basic Allowance should be updated in line with the Local Government Pay awards and overall recommendation is that the Basic Allowance is up to £12,014. The report does not increase the bandings for special responsibility allowances from the 2018 report. However, there will be more detailed analysis of the demands and work patterns of councillors in the 2022/23 review.
- 6.6 The IRP report highlights consideration of a package of support for councillors including continued member training and development, access to digital support, childcare support, and carer financial support to enable attendance at meetings, councillors with disabilities access to travel support. Overall, travel and subsistence reimbursement with additional focus on ensuring female councillors have access to safe travel to get home after meetings.
- 6.7 The Independent Review Panel is undertaking a detailed review, with recommendations on the remuneration of Councillors in London expected at the end of 2023.

- 6.8 Mike Cooke, the Chair of the Independent Panel for Member Remuneration in London, is currently collecting information from councils on councillors' roles, responsibilities and how workload pressures have changed over the past 12 months following the end of Covid19 Pandemic restrictions. This information will help inform the research that the Independent Panel is currently undertaking.
- 6.9 Although the IRP 2022 makes recommendations, it is for each individual Council to decide the level of remuneration and for which roles. The 2018 recommendations were also previously considered in the 2019/20 independent review carried out by the Standards Committee.
- 6.10 The cost-of-living crisis continues this year with increased energy bills and there is not an indication provided of an increase to Member's basic allowance or the special responsibility allowances.
- 6.11 In previous years the Committee discussed if the Basic Allowance should be index link to the proposed increases to the local government officer pay percentage. The National Employers agreed in June 2022 that all local government staff would be offered a £1,925 pay rise, equating to a 10.5% rise for the lowest paid staff and 4% for the highest paid. The rise will be backdated to 1 April 2022.
- 6.12 The independent review of Members Allowance commissioned by the Committee in 2019/20 indicated that the Members Basic Allowance percentage increase be index linked to the local government officer pay percentage increase, capped at 2% to be reduced if a lesser percentage is agreed.
- 6.13 Following discussion of the Member's Allowance Scheme at the Standards meeting on the 24th of January 2023, the steer from both political groups has been provided that a 2% increase to the Basic Allowance for the 2023/24 municipal year is required. This is in alignment with the review completed in 2019/20 which indicated that the Members Basic Allowance percentage increase be index linked to the local government officer pay percentage increase, capped at 2% to be reduced if a lesser percentage is agreed. Given the local government officer pay percentage increase, it is proposed that the current Basic Allowance would increase from £11, 247 to £11,471.94 [**rounded to 11, 472**] from the 1st of April 2023 to the 31st of March 2024.

7. Contribution to strategic outcomes

- 7.1 Members of the Council are directly responsible for the setting and oversight of all strategic priorities.

8. Statutory Officers comments (Chief Finance Officer (including procurement), Assistant Director of Corporate Governance, Equalities)

8.1 Finance

The cost of the scheme unchanged is within the allocated budget envelope. The cost of increasing the Members Basic Allowance by £225 per councillor is £12,825. Given that this is not a significant sum in the context of the Council's overall budget it will be contained within corporate budgets.

8.2 **Head of Legal and Governance**

The proposed Members' Allowance Scheme complies with the relevant provisions of the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003; the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government Act 2000.

In addition, there are separate provisions, namely sections 3 and 5 of the Local Government Act 1972 for the payment of allowances to the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor.

8.3 **Equality**

The decision to approve allowances to members does not have a direct impact on the equality duty of the council, other than that the scheme includes provision for payment for parent/carers allowances to facilitate the attendance of parents and carers at meetings and in relation to carrying out the general responsibilities of councillors.

9. **Use of Appendices**

Appendix 1: Members Allowances Scheme 2023/24

Appendix 2: The Remuneration of Councillors in London 2022– report of the Independent Panel

10. **Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985**

Haringey Review of Member Allowances 2019/20

Part 6

Members' Allowances Scheme

1. SCHEME FOR THE PAYMENT OF MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

1.01 Made in accordance with the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 and in force for the municipal year 1 April 202~~3~~³ to 31 March 202~~4~~⁴).

2. BASIC ALLOWANCE

2.01 Each Councillor will be entitled to receive the sum of ~~£11,247~~ £11,472 by way of Basic Allowance.

2.02 If a Councillor does not serve as such for the whole 12-month period or becomes suspended or partially suspended, he/she will only be entitled to receive pro-rata payment for the period(s) during which he/she actually was a serving Councillor. This principle also applies to education representatives on scrutiny bodies and employee and employer representatives on the Combined Pensions Committee and Board (co-optees).

3. INCLUDED EXPENSES

3.01 Travel Expenses.

The Basic Allowance includes all travel within the M25. Councillors are not entitled to any form of concession or special permit as Councillors for parking in the Borough.

4. MAYORAL ALLOWANCES

4.01 The additional allowances for the Mayor and Deputy Mayor are:

- (a) The Mayor is entitled to an additional allowance of £16,965.
- (b) The Deputy Mayor is entitled to an additional allowance of £4,238.

5. SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY ALLOWANCES

5.01 For the period 1 April 202~~3~~³ to 31 March 202~~4~~⁴, Haringey Council will allocate Special Responsibility Allowances in six bands, to Councillors who take on certain additional roles, in accordance with Table A below. If a Councillor does not serve as such for the whole period or becomes suspended or partially suspended, he/she will only be entitled to receive pro-rata payment for the

period(s) during which he/she actually was a serving Councillor and had the special responsibilities .

Table A

Band	Position	Special Allowance	Total Allowance (including Basic Allowance)
Band 4	•Leader	£33,926	£45,173 <u>£45,398</u>
Band 3B	9 or fewer x Cabinet Members	£25,443	£36,690 <u>£36,915</u>
Band 3A	• Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee	£23,134	£34,381 <u>£34,606</u>
Band 2B	•Chief Whip •Chair of Strategic Planning and Planning Sub Committee •Chair of Alexandra Palace and Park Board •Leader of the Principal Opposition	£16,965	£28,212 <u>£28,437</u>
Band 2A	4 x Councillors serving on Overview and Scrutiny Committee	£15,421	£26,668 <u>£26,893</u>
Band 1B	•Chair of Combined Pensions Committee and Board •Chair of Staffing and Remuneration Committee •Chair of Standards Committee •Chair of Corporate Committee •Chair of Licensing Committee and Licensing Sub Committee Leader of the second Opposition Group or Deputy Leader of the Principal Opposition • Chief Whip of the Principal Opposition	£8,482	£19,729 <u>£19,954</u>

6. MULTIPLE RESPONSIBILITIES

6.01 Where a Councillor holds more than one post of special responsibility, he/she may only receive one Special Responsibility Allowance. Where a Councillor holds more than one post of special responsibility and the posts have Special Responsibility Allowances of different monetary values, the Councillor would receive the higher one. For the purposes of this paragraph, the Mayor and Deputy Mayor count as posts of special responsibility.

7. CO-OPTEE'S ALLOWANCES

7.01 Each education representative on scrutiny bodies, and each employee and employer representative on the Combined Pensions Committee and Board, is entitled to an allowance of £154 per meeting attended, to a maximum of £616. No allowances are payable to others who are not elected Councillors.

8. BABYSITTING AND DEPENDANTS ALLOWANCE

8.01 Councillors and non-elected members can claim this allowance based on the following:

- (a) That reimbursement be made at the London Living Wage. The period of payment should include the time of the meeting, together with reasonable travelling time of the member, plus any necessary travelling expenses of the carer to and from their home.
- (b) Children over the age of 16 must not be claimed for, unless suffering from an illness or disability making constant care essential.

9. TRAVELLING AND SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCE

9.01 Councillors can claim this allowance for attending approved meetings, training and conferences etc. only to the extent that it involves travel outside the M25. Claims must be based on the following:

- (a) The mileage rate for travel by private car is 34.6 pence per mile. An extra 3 pence per mile is payable for each passenger for whom a travelling allowance would otherwise be payable. The cost of tolls, ferries and parking charges can be claimed.
- (b) The mileage rate for travel by solo motor cycle is :

Not exceeding	150 cc	8.5 pence per mile
Over	150 cc but not over 500 cc	12.3 pence per mile
Over	500 cc	16.5 pence per mile

- (c) On public transport only the ordinary or cheaper fare can be claimed where more than one class is available.
- (d) The cost of a taxi, including a reasonable tip, can be claimed only in case of urgency or where public transport is not practicable or reasonably available.
- (e) The maximum rates for subsistence allowance on approved duties are as follows:

For an absence of more than 4 hours before 11.00	£4.92
For an absence of more than 4 hours including lunchtime between 12.00 and 14.00	£6.77
For an absence of more than 4 hours including the period 15.00 to 18.00	£2.67
For an absence of more than 4 hours ending after 19.00	£8.38

10. CLAIMS AND PAYMENTS

- 10.01 Where a Councillor is also a Councillor of another authority, that Councillor may not receive allowances from more than one authority in respect of the same duties.
- 10.02 The Basic Allowance and Special Responsibility Allowances will be paid in equal monthly instalments.
- 10.03 The Co-optees' Allowance must be claimed by, and will be paid at, the end of the municipal year, subject to paragraphs 2.02 above and 10.05 below.
- 10.04 All claims for Travelling and Subsistence Allowance and Babysitting and Dependants Allowance must be made within two months of the relevant meeting or the costs being incurred by the Councillor or non-elected member, subject to paragraph 10.05 below.
- 10.05 If any Allowance under paragraphs 10.03 or 10.04 is not claimed within the prescribed time limit, the Democratic Services Manager shall have a discretion to make the payment nonetheless.
- 10.06 Any Councillor or non-elected member may elect to forego his/her entitlement to all or part of any allowance by giving written notice at any time to the Democratic Services Manager.

11 MATERNITY, ADOPTION, SHARED PARENTAL, PATERNITY AND SICKNESS PAY

11.01 Subject to this paragraph 11, all Members shall continue to receive their Basic Allowance in full in the case of maternity, adoption, shared parental, paternity and sickness leave, as long as they remain a Councillor. This includes Members becoming parents through surrogacy arrangements.

11.02 Members entitled to a Special Responsibility Allowance shall continue to receive their allowance in full in the case of maternity, adoption, shared parental, paternity and sickness leave for a six month period. Extension of this period of leave will require prior 2 months' written notice to be given to the Political Leader of the respective political group. If the extended leave is agreed by that Political Leader, a report will be compiled to seek executive approval from before the point of the 6 months' leave expiry, for the extension of this leave. The Council (or Leader in case of Cabinet Members) may, depending on the circumstances, appoint a replacement to cover the period of absence who will be entitled to the SRA pro rata for the period of the temporary appointment.

11.03 The Democratic and Scrutiny Services Manager will write to the Member to confirm the continuation of allowances and until what date they will continue.

11.04 Leave arrangements are unaffected by the number of children born from a single pregnancy or placed as part of a single adoption.

Maternity Leave

11.05 A Member is entitled to take up to 52 weeks' maternity leave starting no earlier than the 11th week before the expected week of childbirth, except following a premature birth, and no later than the day following the actual date of birth.

11.06 The Member must notify the Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager of their intention to take maternity leave in writing no later than 4 weeks before the date they wish the period of maternity leave to start and:

- i) Confirm the expected week of childbirth;
- ii) Provide a copy of the MATB1 (available from a doctor or midwife);
- iii) Confirm the date on which the Member intends her maternity leave to start.

Adoption Leave

11.07 A Member is entitled to take up to 52 weeks of adoption leave starting no earlier than 14 days before the child is expected to be placed and no later than the expected placement date, or if the child is adopted from overseas, no later than 28 days after the date on which the child enters Great Britain,

11.08 The Member must notify the Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager in the case of a UK adoption of their intention to take adoption leave in writing no more than seven days after the date on which the Member is notified of having been matched with the child for adoption or, where that is not reasonably practicable, as soon as is reasonably practicable thereafter. In the case of an overseas adoption, the Member must notify the Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager of their intention to take adoption leave in writing, no more than 28 days after s/he received the official notification and:

- i) Confirm the date the child is expected to be placed with him/her for adoption (UK Adoption) or the date on which the Member received an official notification and the date on which the child is expected to enter Great Britain (overseas adoption);
- ii) Provide a copy of the matching certificate/official notification. The matching certificate must be issued by the adoption agency that matched the Member to the child and must contain the name and address of the agency, the date on which the Member was notified that s/he had been matched to the child, and the date on which the agency expects to place the child with the Member.;
- iii) in the case of an overseas adoption, the date of entry of the child into Great Britain
- iv) Confirm the date which the Member has chosen his/her adoption leave to start.

Shared Parental Leave

11.09 A Member is entitled to Shared Parental Leave if they are :-

- (i) the mother, or expectant mother, of a child, or the father of the child, or at the date of the child's birth the spouse, civil partner or partner of the mother/expectant mother, and at the date of birth the mother and the father/spouse/civil partner/partner share the main caring responsibility for the child; or
- (ii) the adopter of a child, or at the date that the child is placed for adoption the person who is the spouse, civil partner or partner of the adopter, and at the date of the placement of the child for adoption the adopter and the spouse/civil partner/partner share the main caring responsibility for the child. Where two people have been matched jointly, the adopter is whoever has elected to be the child's adopter.

11.10 A Member may share up to 50 weeks' leave if the mother/ adopter curtails their maternity/adoption leave before using their full entitlement of 52 weeks. The number of weeks available as Shared Parental Leave will be reduced by the number of weeks maternity or adoption leave that has already been taken by the mother or adopter.

11.11 Shared Parental Leave can be taken as one continuous block or in multiples of complete weeks, but must end no later than one year after the birth/placement for adoption of the child.

11.12 The Member must notify the Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager of their intention to take shared parental leave in writing no later than 8 weeks before the date they wish the period of shared parental leave to start, and must in writing provide the following information

(i) in the case of the birth of a child:-

- the names of the mother and of the father/spouse/civil partner/partner,
- the start and end dates of any period of maternity leave to be taken by the Member,
- the total amount of Shared Parental Leave available,
- the expected week of birth
- the date of birth (where the child is not yet born, this information must be provided as soon as reasonably practicable after the birth and, in any event, before the first period of Shared Parental Leave to be taken by the Member)
- how much Shared Parental Leave the mother and the father/spouse/civil partner/partner each intend to take
- an indication as to when the Member intends to take Shared Parental Leave. Including the start and end dates for each period of leave.

(ii) in the case of the adoption of a child:-

- the names of the adopter and of the spouse/civil partner/partner,
- the date that the adopter was notified of having been matched for adoption with the child
- the date that the child is expected to be placed for adoption
- the date of the placement (where the child has yet to be placed for adoption, this information must be provided as soon as reasonably practicable after the placement and, in any event, before the first period of Shared Parental Leave to be taken by the Member)
- the start and end dates of any period of adoption leave to be taken by the adopter,
- the total amount of Shared Parental Leave available,
- how much Shared Parental Leave the adopter and the spouse/civil partner/partner each intend to take
- an indication as to when the Member intends to take Shared Parental Leave. Including the start and end dates for each period of leave.

Paternity Leave

11.13 A Member is entitled to take up to two weeks' paternity leave to help care for the child, or to support the child's mother/adopter, if they are either: the father of the child (whether or not they are the biological father); the spouse, civil partner or partner of the mother/adopter.

11.14 The Member may take one week or two consecutive weeks of paternity leave, but not single days or less than a week's duration. Paternity leave must be taken within 56 days of the birth or adoption.

11.15 The Member must notify the Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager of their intention to take paternity leave in writing no later than 4 weeks before they wish the period of paternity leave to start (childbirth) or no more than seven days after the date on which the adopter is notified of having been matched with the child or, where that is not reasonably practicable, as soon as is reasonably practicable; and:

- i) Confirm the expected week of childbirth; or the dates on which the adopter was notified that s/he had been matched with the child and on which the child is expected to be placed for adoption with the adopter(UK Adoption); or the dates on which the adopter received official notification and on which the child is expected to enter Great Britain (Overseas Adoption);
- ii) or matching certificate/official notification;
- iii) Confirm the length of the absence and the date on which the Member has chosen to begin his/her leave

11.16 If the Member wishes to change the start date of a period of leave, they should write to the Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager no later than 4 weeks before either the original start date 'or' the new start date (whichever is earlier). The Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager will ensure that HR Services are informed within 2 working days of receipt of the details.

11.17 If the Member wishes to change the end date of a period of leave they should write to the Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager at least 4 weeks before either the original end date or the new end date (whichever is earlier). The Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager will ensure that HR Services are informed within 2 working days of receipt of the details.

11.18 HR Services will provide confirmation that the information on revised dates has been received and that relevant re-instatement or adjustment of any SRA has taken place, with a copy to Democratic Services, within 10 working days.

Sickness Leave

11.19 A Member who is sick will continue to receive the basic allowance as long as they remain a Councillor. They will also continue to receive any SRA for a six month period. Extension of this period of leave will require prior 2 months' written notice to be given to the Political Leader of the respective political group. If the extended leave is agreed by that Political Leader, a report will be compiled to seek *executive* approval before the point of the 6 months' leave expiry, for the extension of this leave. This is in accordance with section 85 of the 1972 Local Government Act.

- 11.20 If a Member decides not to return to office following either during or on their expiry of maternity, adoption, shared parental, paternity or sickness leave, the Chief Executive must be notified. HR Services must then be informed within two working days of receiving notification. Allowances will cease from the effective resignation date.
- 11.21 If an election is held during the Member's maternity, adoption, shared parental, paternity or sickness leave and they are not re-elected, or decide not to stand for re-election, their basic allowance and SRA, if appropriate will cease from the Monday after the election date when they would technically leave office.

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The Remuneration of Councillors in London 2022

Report of the Independent Panel



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Summary

At the time of writing this report the country is still responding to the shock of the tragic death of Sir David Amess MP. It is a sad reminder of the vital role that all elected representatives play in the life of our country and how your roles are at the heart of our democratic and civic society. It is also a reminder of the risks that are linked to your roles. It is vital that we have a system of support in place that recognises the full scale of the responsibilities of councillors and one that supports residents in both wanting to come forward to undertake these roles and then when they are elected enables them to be effective. Our work as an independent remuneration panel can play a part in that endeavour.

The report below details our position as the output for the 2021 review. In short, we are very conscious about the huge changes that have taken place as a society during the last few years. Our residents, businesses and communities have been dealing with, and continue to deal with, major challenges. The feedback we have received supports our view that this has had a major impact on the demands placed on all councillors and of those councillors charged with special responsibilities. There is now greater than ever demands for time spent on wider partnership working, the situations faced by many residents are ever more challenging and complex, the ease of access afforded by technology has increased expectations for almost constant access and rapid responses. The burden of responsibility for effective government at a local level is extremely significant.

At the same time, many aspects of the current situation are still relatively recent. It remains rather unclear how these recent patterns of demands and increased expectations will play out and settle over time. With this level of uncertainty, we do not believe that at the current time we have the evidence available to recommend any significant changes in the remuneration of councillors.

However, given the wider background, we have concluded that, instead of waiting four years to undertake the next review, it would be preferable to undertake a review commencing in the summer of 2022 with the aim of concluding it in the latter half of 2023. As well as enabling us to re-assess the situation, this timescale would enable us to undertake more detailed consultations and seek wider views as part of the evidence gathering that will be needed.

As well as the substantive recommendations in the report, we therefore recommend that we undertake a further review of the remuneration of councillors during 2022-23.

Background

The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 ('the Regulations') authorise the establishment by the Association of London Government (now London Councils) of an independent remuneration panel to make recommendations in respect of the members' allowances payable by London boroughs. Such a panel ('the Panel') was established and reported in 2001, 2003, 2006, 2010, 2014 and 2018. It now comprises Mike Cooke (Chair), Sir Rodney Brooke CBE DL and Anne Watts CBE.

The Regulations require a review of the scheme every four years as a minimum. The current Panel has therefore completed a review of remuneration for councillors in London. We present our findings and recommendations in this report.

As a preparation for our work, we invited all London boroughs to give their views on the operation of the existing scheme. We are grateful for the feedback, which confirms that the existing London scheme of members' allowances is still fit for purpose. We make recommendations accordingly. However, where issues have arisen from the comments we received, we have addressed them in this report.

The role of elected members

In our previous reports we reflected on the importance of the role of elected members. We repeat at Appendix B the 'job profile' for councillors which we originally included in our 2010 report.

Our last report reflected on research that identified that councillors oversee million-pound budgets, balancing complex financial pressures at a time of severe cutbacks in local authority spending, making decisions which will affect their areas for decades to come. These challenges continue and have been exacerbated by the impact of the Covid-19

Pandemic and the continuing recovery effort from it.

In London, each borough is responsible for services crucial to its residents. Each has a revenue budget of up to £1.4bn as well as a substantial capital programme. The scale of their turnover and other financial activities are in many instances comparable with those of large publicly quoted companies.

Councillors are faced with difficult choices. Demand for local authority services continues to grow. In particular there is rapid growth in the number of old people with a corresponding increase in demand for social care. London itself faces acute housing problems coupled with higher levels of homelessness than other parts of the country. Councillors have an increased responsibility for local and place-based health outcomes. Thus, the strain on and competition for resources increase the demands made on elected members.

The feedback we received is that the workload and responsibilities of councillors continues to increase and that their role has become more complex, and not only in the areas of social care and housing. There has been a growth in other public sector activities including community safety with increasing engagement with the Police, increasing expectations for closer working with health services, and in some boroughs more involvement with joint venture partnerships and local authority trading companies. Since the start of the Pandemic, there has been an important and significant role for councillors in local welfare support and greater liaison with the voluntary sector. This all requires the commitment and time of leaders, cabinet members and front-line councillors. The Pandemic has also heightened the significant role of councillors as a point contact for information, advice and reassurance for communities.

While valuable to democracy, the growth in digital connectivity and the availability and use of social media and other forms of messaging applications adds to the pressure on councillors by increasing demands from their constituents in several different ways. Communication with councillors is not only easier but immediate. The public expects a speedy response, so that it is now more difficult for councillors to deal with concerns as quickly as voters expect. Not only does social media make it easier for their constituents to access councillors, but they also enable an isolated concern to become an organised campaign. The expectations of the public continue to rise.

Recruitment of councillors

We received feedback that it continues to be challenging to recruit candidates generally but also from a diverse background and of a high enough calibre who are prepared to stand for office as councillors. Though financial deterrents were cited amongst a number of reasons for this, a major disincentive is the time commitment required of a councillor. Time pressures (as well as finance) can make it difficult to combine the role with a job and caring responsibilities. As was pointed out in the responses we received, the problem is exacerbated in London, where councillors are on the whole younger than in other parts of the country and often in employment. They also face substantially higher costs of living which are continuing to rise.

Though the time commitment may be the main disincentive to service as a councillor, it is important that, as far as reasonably possible, financial loss does not prevent people from becoming councillors. Allowances are not shown by polls to be something which influences councillors to take on the role, though they are instrumental in making it possible for some people to do so. Allowances should be set at a level that enables people to undertake the role of councillor, while not acting as an incentive to do so. If it is important that there are no financial incentives to being a councillor, it is equally important that there should not be a financial disincentive. It is clearly desirable that service as a councillor is not confined to those who have retired or with independent means.

In 2014 the Government removed the possibility of councillors joining the local government pension scheme. Almost half of the responses we received cited the lack of pension provision as a factor that influences people whether to run for council office. Access to the pension scheme can be an important factor in making service as a councillor financially possible for a wider range of people. It is particularly significant for those who, like elected mayors, leaders and portfolio holders, give most or all of their time to service in local government and lose the opportunity for advancement in their particular profession and to contribute to a pension scheme elsewhere. In view of the importance this could have for recruiting a diverse range of councillors in future and to wider issues for local democracy, the Panel intends to look at lobbying opportunities on this issue as part of its further review in 2022-23.

The current financial climate

Because of the financial climate over the last decade, the local government pay settlement over much of this period has been either frozen or severely limited. Since our last report there have been modest increases from 2% in 2018-19 to 2.75% last year.

Acutely sensitive to the ongoing financial austerity, our recent reports have made no recommendations for increasing the levels of members' allowances other than continuing provision for annual adjustments in accordance with the annual local government pay settlement.

Our recommendations have led to some convergence of members' allowances across London. There is now considerable congruity in the basic allowance made by London boroughs.

However, most London boroughs have not adopted our recommendations in their entirety and there remain substantial differences in the amount of special responsibility allowances.

In reaching our views this year, we have been acutely conscious of the continuing financial challenges to council budgets including the impact from the Covid-19 Pandemic. This adds to the view that now is not the time to contemplate a general increase in councillors' allowances.

Level of Basic Allowance

In our last report we recommended that there should be a Basic Allowance paid to every councillor of £11,045. Updated for the local government staff pay awards since then (and including an indicative 1.75% award for 2021-22 which is still the subject of negotiation), the figure is now £12,014. Given all the circumstances including growth in the volume and complexity of the work of councillors and the limited increase in the Basic Allowance since our last report, we believe that there is a strong case for looking again at the level of the allowance. The basic allowance is now less than the allowances paid by many similar authorities outside London. In our last report we highlighted that in Wales, for example, the government-appointed commission set the basic allowance at £13,400 for members of local authorities with populations which are generally substantially lower than those of London boroughs. In its most recent report, published in February 2021, this had increased to £14,368.

However, the wider context is one of considerable uncertainty including whether trends in demands will be sustained. If they are so, as seems likely, the consequences of the changing patterns of work remains unclear added to which is the current financial climate. All this suggests to us that now is not the right moment to recommend major changes to the current allowances (beyond the annual updating). Linking the allowances to an annual increase to staff pay awards will ensure that councillors can receive annual increases which are in line with those received by staff. We therefore recommend that the Basic Allowance be set at £12,014 pending the outcome of the 2021-22 award. We believe that it remains sensible to frame recommendations which are common across London.

Special Responsibility Allowances

Given the extent of the responsibilities of leaders of London boroughs, the Panel's first report in 2001 recommended that their remuneration should equate to that of a Member of Parliament. [Our recommendations for other special responsibility allowances are related to that recommended for leaders.]

Since then, the increase in the remuneration of Members of Parliament has substantially exceeded the annual local government pay increase to which we tied the special responsibility allowance for the leader of a London borough. At the time of our last report an MP received a salary of £76,011 while our recommendation for a borough leader (increases having been restricted to the local government staff pay increases) was for a total remuneration of £68,130, a difference of £7,881. Updated for the local government pay awards (and indicative 2021-22 award), our recommendation for the current total remuneration of a London borough leader would be £74,106. Meanwhile the salary of MPs has increased to £81,932, a difference of £7,826. Moreover, MPs continue to be entitled to a pension as well as to other benefits (such as termination payments) which are not available to leaders.

In our current consultation we enquired whether the remuneration of an MP remains a sound comparator to fix the remuneration of a borough leader. In general, the responses suggested that the comparator was appropriate with some feedback noting that the Leaders of London boroughs warranted a higher remuneration than an MP, because they had greater financial responsibility and legal burdens, and especially given the differential pension arrangements. Indeed, a couple of respondent authorities suggested that the direct responsibilities of a Leader should command the salary of a junior minister.

We sympathise with the responses. Certainly, the way in which MPs' remuneration has progressed compared to that of leaders could be argued to warrant a review of the Leaders' allowances.

We are also aware of the very significant expectations on leaders and leading members to participate in wider cross borough, pan-London and partnership working, the demands of which (both in terms of time commitments but importantly in terms of responsibility and significance) appear to have increased dramatically over the last 18 months. Our report makes no recommendations in respect of remuneration for these roles at this stage but we propose to return to this issue as part of the further review that is proposed.

However, for the same reasons which prompt us to maintain the current Basic Allowance, (namely a significant uncertainty over the long term implications of the changes we have been witnessing in the last 18 months, combined with the financial challenges faced at this time) we recommend that the special responsibility allowance for a Leader should be in accordance with our former recommendation, plus the subsequent local government staff pay awards (including an indicative uplift of 1.75% for 2021-22 which is still the subject of negotiation), ie £62,092. We recommend the maintenance of its relation to other special responsibility allowances, as set out in the Appendix to this report.

However, we believe that it is important to undertake a more detailed review, along with the Basic Allowances, of the special responsibility allowances having allowed further time for the new patterns of demands and expectations to become even clearer. We envisage beginning this review in the summer of 2022 and concluding the review during the latter half of 2023.

Training and support

The responsibilities of councillors are substantial, extensive and complex. We have mentioned the increased role that councillors have delivered particularly during the Pandemic. The Pandemic has also resulted in an acceleration of more flexible ways of working including greater use of digital technology. While this has provided a range of benefits including less travelling for work it has required councillors to have the necessary digital skills. Additionally, the move to audio-visual conferencing has resulted in a growth in meetings for many contributing to an overall increase in 'screen time'. Training and development is beyond the direct remit of our Panel but is an important part of ensuring that residents can step forward and become successful and effective elected local representatives. Addressing the financial aspects but not the support aspects would be counter-productive. For this reason, we believe that every borough should have an ongoing programme of member training and development and that members should be provided with the logistical and clerical support and the appropriate IT equipment to help them deal with their workload.

Barriers to being a councillor

It is important that obstacles to becoming a councillor should be removed wherever possible. Care costs can be a significant deterrent to service as a councillor. Our strong view is that in appropriate cases when they undertake their council duties, councillors should be entitled to claim an allowance for care of dependents. The dependents' carers' allowance should be set at the London living wage but (on presentation of proof of expense) payment should be made at a higher rate when specialist nursing skills are required.

One respondent authority stressed that member allowances schemes present an opportunity to better support councillors by providing not just remuneration but wider support packages. Our view is that members' allowances schemes should allow the continuance of Special Responsibility Allowances in the case of sickness, maternity and paternity leave in the same terms that the council's employees enjoy such benefits (that is to say, they follow the same policies).

Travel and Subsistence allowances

The Basic Allowance should cover basic out-of-pocket expenses incurred by councillors, including intra-borough travel costs and expenses. The members' allowances scheme should, however, provide for special circumstances, such as travel after late meetings or travel by councillors with disabilities. The scheme should enable councillors to claim travel expenses when their duties take them out of their home borough, including a bicycle allowance.

Allowances for Mayor or Civic Head

Many councils include the allowances for the mayor (or civic head) and deputy in their members' allowance scheme. However, these allowances do serve a rather different purpose from the 'ordinary' members' allowances, since they are intended to enable the civic heads to perform a ceremonial role. There are separate statutory provisions (ss 3 and 5 of the Local Government Act 1972) for such allowances and councils may find it convenient to use those provisions rather than to include the allowances in the members' allowance scheme.

Update for inflation

We continue to recommend that all allowances should be updated annually in accordance with the headline figure in the annual local government pay settlement.

We have been asked whether it is necessary for the annual updating to be formally authorised by the council each year. The Regulations do seem to make this obligatory.

Mike Cooke

Sir Rodney Brooke CBE DL

Anne Watts CBE

London, 6 January 2022

Appendix A

Basic allowance £12,014

Special responsibilities – beyond the basic allowance

The case for special allowances

The reasons for payment of additional special responsibility allowances should be clearly set out in local allowances schemes. Special allowances should come into play only in positions where there are significant differences in the time requirements and levels of responsibility from those generally expected of a councillor.

Calculation of special allowances

The proposed amounts for each band are a percentage of the figure suggested for a council leader depending upon levels of responsibility of the roles undertaken and are explained below. We believe that the SRA, which the previous panel recommended for the leader of a London council (updated), continues to be appropriate.

Categories of special allowances

The regulations specify the following categories of responsibility for which special responsibility allowances may be paid:

- Members of the executive where the authority is operating executive arrangements
- Acting as leader or deputy leader of a political group within the authority
- Presiding at meetings of a committee or sub-committee of the authority, or a joint committee of the authority and one or more other authorities, or a sub-committee of such a joint committee
- Representing the authority at meetings of, or arranged by, any other body
- Membership of a committee or sub-committee of the authority which meets with exceptional frequency or for exceptionally long periods
- Acting as spokesperson of a political group on a committee or sub-committee of the authority
- Membership of an adoption panel
- Membership of a licensing or regulatory committee
- Such other activities in relation to the discharge of the authority's functions as require of the member an amount of time and effort equal to or greater than would be required of him by any one of the activities mentioned above, whether or not that activity is specified in the scheme.

Local discretion

It is for the councils locally to decide how to allocate their councillors between the different bands, having regard to our recommendations and how to set the specific remuneration within the band. They must have regard to our recommendations. We believe these should have the merits of being easy to apply, easy to adapt, easy to explain and understand, and easy to administer.

BAND ONE

The posts we envisage falling within band one, include:

- Vice chair of a service, regulatory or scrutiny committee
- Chair of sub-committee
- Leader of second or smaller opposition group

- Service spokesperson for first opposition group
- Group secretary (or equivalent) of majority group
- First opposition group whip (in respect of council business)
- Vice chair of council business
- Chairs, vice chairs, area committees and forums or community leaders
- Cabinet assistant
- Leadership of a strategic major topic
- Acting as a member of a committee or sub-committee which meets with exceptional frequency or for exceptionally long periods
- Acting as a member of an adoption panel where membership requires attendance with exceptional frequency or for exceptionally long periods
- Leadership of a specific major project.

Remuneration

We propose that band one special responsibility allowances should be on a sliding scale of between 20 – 30 per cent of the remuneration package for a council leader.

This would be made up as follows:

Basic allowance: £12,014

Band One allowance: £2,807 to £10,218

Total: £14,821 to £22,232

BAND TWO

The types of office we contemplate being within band two are:

- Lead member in scrutiny arrangements, such as chair of a scrutiny panel
- Representative on key outside body
- Chair of major regulatory committee e.g planning
- Chair of council business (civic mayor)
- Leader of principal opposition group
- Majority party chief whip (in respect of council business).

Remuneration

We propose that band two allowances should be on a sliding scale between 40 – 60 per cent, pro rata of the remuneration package for a council leader.

This is made up as follows:

Basic allowance £12,014

Band two allowances: £17,628 to £32,450

Total: £29,642 to £44,464

BAND THREE

We see this band as appropriate to the following posts:

- Cabinet member
- Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board
- Chair of the main overview or scrutiny committee
- Deputy leader of the council

Remuneration:

We propose that band three allowances should be between 70 – 80 per cent pro rata of the remuneration package for a council leader.

This is made up as follows:

Basic allowance: £12,014

Band three allowance: £39,860 to £47,271

Total: £51,874, to £59,285

BAND FOUR

Leader of cabinet

This is a full-time job, involving a high level of responsibility and includes the exercise of executive responsibilities. It is right that it should be remunerated on a basis which compares with similar positions in the public sector, while still retaining a reflection of the voluntary character of public service.

Remuneration:

We propose that the remuneration package for a council leader under band four of our scheme should be £74,106.

This is made up as follows:

Basic allowance: £12,014

Band four allowance: £62,092.

Total: £74,106

BAND FIVE

Directly elected mayor

A directly elected mayor has a full-time job with a high level of responsibility and exercises executive responsibilities over a fixed electoral cycle. It is right that it should be remunerated on a basis which compares with similar positions in the public sector, while still retaining a reflection of the voluntary character of public service. However, we believe this post remains different to that of the strong leader with cabinet model. The directly elected mayor is directly elected by the electorate as a whole. The strong leader holds office at the pleasure of the council and can be removed by the council. We believe that the distinction is paramount and this should be reflected in the salary level.

Remuneration:

We propose that a directly elected mayor should receive a remuneration package of 25 per cent higher than that recommended for a council leader and that it should be a salary set at £92,633.

Appendix B

On behalf of the community – a job profile for councillors

Purposes:

1. To participate constructively in the good governance of the area.
2. To contribute actively to the formation and scrutiny of the authority's policies, budget, strategies and service delivery.
3. To represent effectively the interests of the ward for which the councillor was elected, and deal with constituents' enquiries and representations.
4. To champion the causes which best relate to the interests and sustainability of the community and campaign for the improvement of the quality of life of the community in terms of equity, economy and environment.
5. To represent the council on an outside body, such as a charitable trust or neighbourhood association.

Key Tasks:

1. To fulfil the statutory and local determined requirements of an elected member of a local authority and the authority itself, including compliance with all relevant codes of conduct, and participation in those decisions and activities reserved to the full council (for example, setting budgets, overall priorities, strategy).
2. To participate effectively as a member of any committee or panel to which the councillor is appointed, including related responsibilities for the services falling within the committee's (or panel's) terms of reference, human resource issues, staff appointments, fees and charges, and liaison with other public bodies to promote better understanding and partnership working.
3. To participate in the activities of an outside body to which the councillor is appointed, providing two-way communication between the organisations. Also, for the same purpose, to develop and maintain a working knowledge of the authority's policies and practices in relation to that body and of the community's needs and aspirations in respect of that body's role and functions.
4. To participate in the scrutiny or performance review of the services of the authority, including where the authority so decides, the scrutiny of policies and budget, and their effectiveness in achieving the strategic objectives of the authority.
5. To participate, as appointed, in the area and in service-based consultative processes with the community and with other organisations.
6. To represent the authority to the community, and the community to the authority, through the various forums available.
7. To develop and maintain a working knowledge of the authority's services, management arrangements, powers/duties, and constraints, and to develop good working relationships with relevant officers of the authority.
8. To develop and maintain a working knowledge of the organisations, services, activities and other factors which impact upon the community's well-being and identity.
9. To represent effectively the interests of the ward for which the councillor was elected, and deal with constituents' enquiries and representations including, where required, acting as a liaison between the constituent and the local authority and where appropriate other public service providers.
10. To contribute constructively to open government and democratic renewal through active encouragement of the community to participate generally in the government of the area.
11. To participate in the activities of any political group of which the councillor is a member.
12. To undertake necessary training and development programmes as agreed by the authority.
13. To be accountable for his/her actions and to report regularly on them in accessible and transparent ways.

Appendix C

The independent panel members

Mike Cooke

Mike Cooke was the Chief Executive of the London Borough of Camden for seven years, where he had also been Director of Housing and Adult Social Care and HR Director. He has extensive experience of partnership working across London including as the CELC lead on children and chairing the London Safeguarding Children Board. Mike also has worked for seven years in financial services where he developed an expertise in remuneration.

Until November 2020 Mike had been a Non-Executive Director of the Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust where he was chair of the HR Committee. Mike's current role is the independent Chair of the North Central London Integrated Health and Care System.

Sir Rodney Brooke CBE, DL

Sir Rodney Brooke has a long career in local government, including as chief executive of West Yorkshire County Council, Westminster City Council and the Association of Metropolitan Authorities.

He was knighted in 2007 for his contribution to public service.

Dr Anne Watts CBE

Anne Watts has an extensive career in governance, diversity and inclusion spanning commercial, public and voluntary sectors. She has held executive roles for HSBC and Business in the Community and was chair of the Appointments Commission. She has carried out reviews of Government departments and the Army. In addition she has been a member of Government Pay review bodies and Deputy Chair, University of Surrey where she chaired Remuneration Committee and the new Vet School.

She is a non-exec of Newable (previously Greater London Enterprise) where she chairs ESG Committee and is a non-exec of Newflex subsidiary. In addition she continues to sit on the Race and Gender Equality Leadership teams for Business in the Community.

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Report for: Standards Committee – 21 March 2023

Title: Committee Work Programme

Report authorised by: Fiona Alderman, Head of Legal and Governance (Monitoring Officer)

Lead Officer: Ayshe Simsek, Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager
ayshe.simsek@haringey.gov.uk, 020 8489 2929

Ward(s) affected: N/A

**Report for Key/
Non Key Decision:** Non-Key Decision

1. Describe the issue under consideration

- 1.1 Members to note current work programme and put forward any comments on suggested areas of work.

22nd June 2023

1. Member's Allowance Scheme 2024/2025
2. Potential constitutional changes following a review by Legal and Finance and Procurement and Member working group.
3. Recent developments in the ethical standards of elected members that might be of interest to members of the Standards Committee in its role of promoting and maintaining high standard of conduct.
4. Annual report on Councillor Complaints

31st of October 2023

1. Potential constitutional changes following a review by Legal and Finance and Procurement and Member working group.
2. Recruitment of Independent persons

30th of January 2024

Members Allowance Scheme 2024/25

5th of March 2024

Members Allowance Scheme 2024/25

By virtue of paragraph(s) 1, 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is exempt

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