

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY, 19TH FEBRUARY, 2018, 7.30 - 8.30 pm

PRESENT:

Councillors: Kaushika Amin (Chair), Jennifer Mann, James Patterson and Viv Ross

33. FILMING AT MEETINGS

The Chair drew attendees' attention to the notice on the agenda regarding filming at meetings.

34. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Beacham, Opoku and Reith, for whom Councillors Ross, Jennifer Mann and James Patterson were attending as substitutes respectively.

35. URGENT BUSINESS

None.

36. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chair mentioned that she had received a request in relation to the Council's Constitution, which would be considered at item 6.

37. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 16 November were agreed.

38. MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME

The Chair asked Michael Kay, Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager, to introduce the paper that set out the previous discussions and agreements of the Committee in respect of the scheme for Members' Allowances and the recently-published guidance of the Independent Panel on the Remuneration of Councillors in London.

The Committee agreed that it would be helpful for its conclusions to date to be put to all Members as a briefing, along with two of the three options contained in the paper for re-distributing the savings generated from the changes agreed in accordance with

the Guidance– Option A, increasing the basic to £11 045, and option B, increasing all allowances by one per cent.

Councillor Ross suggested the Leader of the Opposition, as effectively a full-time position, ought to remain at Band 3B, and the Chair suggested that there would be opportunities for all Members to give their views on the Committee's recommendations at the briefing.

RESOLVED

The Committee agree:

1. Following consideration of the 2014 and 2018 Guidance and levels of allowances across London and particularly comparable boroughs at its previous meeting, to confirm the recommendation of the following changes to the current Members' allowances scheme:
 - a. That the special responsibly allowance paid to the Chair of Corporate Committee be moved from Band 2B in the current structure to Band 1.
 - b. That the special responsibly allowance paid to the Leader of the Opposition be moved from Band 3B to Band 2B
 - c. That the special responsibly allowances paid to the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and the Opposition Chief Whip be moved from Band 2B to Band 1.
 - d. That the Vice Chair of the Regulatory Committee be paid a special responsibility allowance at Band 1 in light of its workload, including chairing a Licensing Sub-Committee that meets regularly.
 - e. That the Deputy Leader of the Opposition's allowance be provided to the Leader of a third group, and that the group should be of at least 2 Members. If there is no third group, the SRA would be paid to the Deputy Leader of the Opposition.
 - f. That the Dependent Carers' Allowance should be at the London Living Wage, rather than including a figure that can be outdated
 - g. To move to a per-meeting allowance for those co-optees currently remunerated, to a maximum of the current level of £616.50
2. To present the preferred options of either a one per cent allowance to each allowance or an increase in the Basic Allowance to £11 045, to all members, prior to a final decision at the March Standards Meeting.

39. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

The Chair discussed a suggestion made to her, that the annual report of the Council's progress toward reducing carbon emissions be included on the Council's agenda each year. With the Committee broadly in favour of such a suggestion, it was agreed that a possible insertion be drawn up and presented to the Committee's next meeting.

RESOLVED

That the next meeting consider a possible amendment to the Council's Constitution, to the effect of the Council receiving an annual update on progress toward reducing carbon emissions.

40. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

8 March.

CHAIR: Councillor Kaushika Amin

Signed by Chair

Date