

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY, 28TH JANUARY, 2019, 7.00 - 8.35 pm

PRESENT:

**Councillors: Felicia Opoku (Chair), Gideon Bull, Luke Cawley-Harrison
and James Chiriyankandath**

57. FILMING AT MEETINGS

Noted.

58. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

59. URGENT BUSINESS

None.

60. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Cawley-Harrison declared an interest in respect of item six, as he was due to have a baby in February.

61. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 10 July 2018 be approved as a correct record.

62. UPDATING THE MEMBERS ALLOWANCE SCHEME TO INCLUDE PROVISION FOR, MATERNITY, PATERNITY AND SICK PAY

Ayshe Simsek, Acting Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager, introduced the report as set out. The report outlined the need to reflect the Council's objectives and ensure that the policies for Members were in line with staff policies. There were informal processes in place, but no proper recognition to allow Councillors to take time off for maternity / paternity or sick leave, and not feel the pressure to fill absences at meetings. Camden, Islington and Waltham Forest Councils have adopted similar schemes, and the Camden scheme had been included as an appendix to the report.

The following was noted during discussion of the report:

- The position of whether an exemption could be applied to the six-month attendance rule would need to be explored further. There had been instances in

the past where Full Council had taken a decision to extend this period, although each case would have to be taken on its own merits.

- 2.1 of the Camden policy referred to a Member on maternity, adoption, shared parental or paternity leave receiving their SRA allowance for a six month period subject to review and possible extension – the Committee requested that any Haringey policy needed to specify who would be responsible for reviewing this.
- If the Camden policy were to be adopted, then it would need to include surrogacy, with ‘primary and secondary parent’ used instead of ‘adopter’.

The Committee agreed that this would be a good inclusion to the Member Allowance Scheme, and with the amendments suggested, should be included as a recommendation to the Scheme at the next meeting in March.

63. UPDATE ON MEMBER'S ALLOWANCE SCHEME 2019/20

Ayshe Simsek, Acting Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager, introduced the report as set out. The report focused on tidying up parts of the allowance which were out of date, and considering the addition of allowances for two Assistant Cabinet Members.

The following was noted during discussion of the report:

- Some Members commented that there were substantial disparities between the Special Responsibility Allowances, and noted that although the Leader’s allowance was lower than recommended, the other SRAs were higher than what they should be in proportion to the Leader’s salary. Members would therefore be in favour of an independent review of the allowances.
- A request was made to review the SRA for the Vice-Chair of Regulatory, and to provide information on the work carried out by this position since the SRA was implemented.
- Council staff would be receiving a 2% uplift – if this was mirrored for Members, this would cost around £30,000.
- Members requested evidence of the work carried out by the current Assistant Cabinet Member posts, which would inform the discussion on the remuneration of these posts.

RESOLVED that

- i. An update on the activities of the Deputy Cabinet Member role be provided at the March meeting, and consideration be given to the additional remuneration of these posts;**
- ii. Consideration be given at the March meeting to recommending to Full Council in March that there be a 1% uplift to allowances in March for 2019/20 scheme;**
- iii. Section 3.02 – Telephones and IT, be deleted from the Members Allowance Scheme, as this information was no longer correct; and**
- iv. An independent review of the Member Allowance Scheme shall be completed between May 2019 and March 2020, for implementation in 2020/21, undertaking analysis of roles and responsibilities with reference**

to neighbouring and comparator boroughs, as well as considering the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel.

64. WORK PLAN

Members noted the work plan report, and requested that an item be added in relation to the publication of Members' addresses on the website under their Declaration of Interest forms, with the request that this information not be provided publically.

Victoria Barman, Senior Lawyer, advised that the Localism Act required Members addresses to be provided, and Counsel advice had been sought which stated that only where the Council could form the view that disclosure of interests would pose serious harm to an individual, or someone they lived with, could the address be removed from the public website.

65. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

None.

66. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

None.

67. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT EXEMPT BUSINESS

None.

68. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

4 March 2019

CHAIR: Councillor Felicia Opoku

Signed by Chair

Date