

Report for: Standards Committee 25 June 2019

Title: Scope for the Review of Member's Allowances 2020/21

Report

Authorised by: Ayshe Simsek – Acting Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager

Lead Officer: Ayshe Simsek Acting Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager

Ward(s) affected: N/A

Report for Key/

Non Key Decision: Non Key

1. Describe the issue under consideration

1.1 This Committee has responsibility for considering and recommending changes to the Member's Allowance scheme, to full Council for adoption.

1.2 The Committee is asked to consider the attached scope for the review of Member's Allowances in order to inform a report from the Committee to full Council on the proposed scheme for 2020/21 in March 2020.

2. Cabinet Member Introduction

Not applicable

3. Recommendations

3.1. To provide comments on the attached scope for the Review of Member's Allowances in 2020/21.

3.2 To note that the Council's LGA representative will be contacted to source independent facilitation of the review once the scope is agreed.

4. Reasons for decision

The Council has a legal duty under the Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 to adopt 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.

The Committee agreed in January 2019 that an independent review of Members Allowances be taken forward and the attached scoping document responds to this request.

5. Alternative options considered

To not review the scheme which would be contrary to previous resolutions of the Committee.

6. Background information

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 in January 2018. Although the IRP makes recommendations, it is for each individual council to decide the level of remuneration and for which roles.

Following previous discussions at the Standards Committee on the Members Allowance scheme for 2019/20 it was agreed that a review special responsibility allowances focusing on the functions and responsibilities of Council committees together with the volume and complexity of their decision making to ascertain whether the SRA's provided to the Leader, Cabinet Members, Committee chairs, Vice -Chairs and Scrutiny Panel Chair's reflects the allocated allowance.

7. Contribution to strategic outcomes

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 and Procurement

8.2 The review is being facilitated through the LGA and there will budget implications. Currently this can be contained within the budget for Democratic Services and Scrutiny following the delayed recruitment of a committee post holder.

8.3 Legal

8.4 Legal services have reviewed the scoping report and their comments have been included.

8.5 Equality

8.6 These are set out in the scoping document.

9. Use of Appendices

10. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

10.1 The Council Constitution which can be found at;

<http://www.haringey.gov.uk/local-democracy/about-council/council-constitution>

11. IRP Member's Allowances 2018