

General Purposes Committee on 2 March 2006

Report Title: **Making the Scheme of Members' Allowances**

Report of: **The Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer**

Wards affected: All

Report for: Recommendation to Council

1. Purpose

1.1 To make the Scheme of Members' Allowances for the year 2006/07

2. Recommendations

2.1 That Members recommend to full Council the adoption of the Scheme of Members' Allowances for the year 2006/07, set out in the Appendix to this report, to have effect as a replacement for Part C.7 of the Council's Constitution

Report authorised by:

Davina Fiore
Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer

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3.1 Executive summary

It is a requirement of the Local Authorities (Members Allowances) Regulations 2003 that each Council before the end of March must make its Scheme of Members' Allowances afresh for the coming year.

4. Access to information:

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report and can be inspected at the Alexandra House, 10 Station Road, Wood Green, London N22 7TR by contacting Terence Mitchison on 020 8489 5936:

The Council's Constitution

5. Background

- 5.1 Under the Local Authorities (Members Allowances) Regulations 2003 each Council must make its Scheme of Members' Allowances for the next municipal year before the end of March every year. This must be done whether or not any changes are proposed.
- 5.2 The legislation allows a Scheme to be amended at any time. Any changes in an allowance resulting from such an amendment can be made retrospective from the beginning of the relevant year i.e. 1 April.
- 5.3 Haringey's Scheme was last made by full Council meeting on 21 March 2005 for the year 2005/06. At that time minor increases were made to the babysitting and dependants allowance but first class travel was excluded outside the M25. There was clarification of the rules on travelling and subsistence allowances, the withholding of allowances by Standards bodies, making claims and payments and the exclusion of multiple allowances.
- 5.4 A Special Responsibility Allowance was introduced for the Chair of the new Audit Committee but the levels of the Basic Allowance, Mayoral Allowances and Special Responsibility Allowance were not altered.

6. Proposals

- 6.1 The Scheme of Members' Allowances for 2006/07 is attached as the Appendix to this report. Apart from the point about parking below, there are no substantive changes as compared to last year.
- 6.2 There have been questions about the entitlement of Members to essential service permits for parking within the Borough. The Leader considers that any preferential treatment for Members in terms of parking permits cannot be justified and that this should be stated in the Scheme of Members Allowances. An extra sentence (in italics and underlined) has been added to paragraph 3.01 on "Travel Expenses" to put the point beyond doubt.
- 6.3 Once the Scheme has been made by full Council, details must be published in a local newspaper and copies of the Scheme must be available for public inspection at the Civic Centre.

7. Recommendations

7.1 That Members recommend to full Council the adoption of the Scheme of Members' Allowances for the year 2006/07, set out in the Appendix to this report, to have effect as a replacement for Part C.7 of the Council's Constitution

8. Equalities Implications

8.1 There are no specific equalities implications

9. Comments of the Director of Finance

9.1 There are no financial implications as a result of the recommendations in this report. The Member's Allowances will be contained within the existing approved budget.

10. Comments of the Head of Legal Services

10.1 Under the 2003 Regulations, when Members reach their decision upon the Scheme they must have regard to the recommendations contained in the Report by the Independent Panel to the ALG. The Panel's report and recommendations were considered by Members when they made the Scheme in substantially the same terms in March 2005. At that time, Members were advised that their decision was consistent with the Panel's recommendations.

11. Use of Appendices

11.1 There is one Appendix to this report which sets out the Scheme of Members' Allowances proposed for 2006/07.