

Report for: Standards Committee 29 June 2026

Title: Members Allowances Scheme for 2026-2027 update to reflect access to the Local Government Pension Scheme.

Report authorised by : Director 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 To formalise the access of Members to the Local Government Pension Scheme which was made available by government legislation on the 11th of May 2026.

2. Cabinet Member Introduction

N/A

3. Recommendations

3.1 To consider the updates to the Members' Allowances Scheme set out at section 6 and reflected at Appendix 1 to the report.

3.2 To recommend that the Members' Allowances Scheme 2026/27 attached at Appendix 1 and agreed by the Committee be adopted by Full Council on 20 July 2026.

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. Following the change in legislation, on the 11th of May 2026, to allow councillors in England the option of joining the Local Government Pension Scheme, the updated scheme is attached. This includes some key information for members about the LGPS and how they can opt in and make payments from their basic allowance.

5. Alternative options considered.

5.1 No alternative options were considered as there is a duty to ensure that the scheme reflects the provisions available to members.

6. Background information

6.1 This report asks Standards Committee to consider the updated scheme and recommend this for approval by full Council on the 20 July 2026, in accordance with Article 14.03 of the Council's Constitution.

6.2 The government published the 'Local Government Pension Scheme in England and Wales: Scheme improvements (access and protections)' following consultation on 13 October 2025, closing on 22 December 2025. The consultation set out proposals for four policy areas: Normal Minimum Pension Age, pensions for elected members, academies in the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) and new Fair Deal.

6.3 The government response addressed one of the four policy areas – pensions for elected members. The proposals gave mayors and councillors in England access to the LGPS. The proposals were put forward because the government believed that they would help talented people come into public service and ensure a consistent position across the UK. It was noted that Councillors in Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales already have access to the LGPS.

6.4 The consultation also included a draft statutory instrument to bring the change into legislation. An updated draft statutory instrument, that takes into account the suggestions made at consultation, has been published alongside the government response in February 2026.

6.5 It was noted that the government was prioritising access for elected members, so that they can enter the LGPS in the 2026-27 LGPS year. A further government response will be published later in the year, addressing the three other proposals in the consultation.

6.6 Therefore, since the 11th of May 2026, Local Councillors in England now have access to the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) following the introduction of new regulations. The Government Actuary's Department (GAD) used actuarial analysis to support a consultation about the change.

- 6.7 The Council's Pensions Team have compiled a form, FAQ and leaflet which has already been distributed to the Chief Whips to share with all newly Councillors and there has been interest in joining the scheme.
- 6.8 It is important to formalise the access to the LGPS scheme and include this information in the Member Allowances Scheme which will be published on the website and also considered at full Council. This will further help continual communication of the access to the scheme.

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

Administrative burden of increased access.....

The government expects software providers to make necessary updates over the course of the scheme year, and for annual benefit statements to be available to elected members in line with Regulation 89 of the LGPS Regulations 2013, i.e. by the end of August 2027.

8.2 Director of Legal and Governance

The Local Government Pension Scheme (Elected Member Pensions) (consequential amendment Regulations 2026 come into force on 11th May 2026.

8.3 Equality

The decision to update the scheme does not have a direct impact on the equality duty of the council. Increased access to the local government pensions scheme recognises the role of elected members as dedicated public servants.

9. Use of Appendices

Appendix 1: Members Allowances Scheme 2026/27 updated

10. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

Haringey Review of Member Allowances 2019/20