

Report of the Governance Review Delivery Group Council 04 April 2011

Chair: Councillor Claire Kober

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report notes the progress of the Governance Review Delivery Group for implementing the recommendations of the Governance Review, previously noted by Council in January 2011.

2. Background

- 2.1 At the Council meeting in January 2011, the Council resolved to: 'establish an informal Delivery Group of Members, as described in paragraph 5.3.3 of the report and in accordance with Article 15.03(a) of the Constitution, to consider in detail all proposed text changes to the Constitution outlined in, or related to, the report at Appendix 1 with a view to making recommendations for adoption by full Council and implementation as from Annual Council in May 2011.'
- 2.2 The Delivery Group has considered the constitutional amendments and a set of protocols which shall comprise the main elements of implementing the proposed changes outlined in the Governance Review undertaken by Shared Intelligence.
- 2.3 Since its establishment, the informal Delivery Group has been convened on three occasions. It has met on 8 February 2011, 8 March 2011 and 31 March 2011.
- 2.4 In addition to these meetings the Delivery Group has consulted the Constitutional Review Working Group over the proposed constitutional changes given its experience in constitutional matters. As such the CRWG met on 21 February 2011 and was also invited to make further comments via email to the proposed constitutional changes.
- 2.5 This report outlines the Delivery Group's proposals for implementing the Governance Review, which are reflected in the protocols and constitutional changes. The Delivery Group will report the detailed text changes to the Constitution at Annual Council in May 2011.

3. Delivery Group considerations

3.1 Area Committees

Area Committees shall be created to have a number of responsibilities and decision-making powers, namely the development of Area Committee Plans to set out the local priorities. Area Committee meetings will include an open public forum, and as a result Area Assemblies in their current form will no longer exist.

3.2 Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The Delivery Group proposes that the OSC comprises the Area Committee Chairs, and additional members where necessary to achieve political proportionality. The new Committee will consider how best to focus its reduced resources and time available on effective scrutiny of the Executive, given overall it is intended that OSC shall hold fewer meetings each year and undertake fewer standalone task and finish Scrutiny Reviews.

3.3 Non-Executive Committees

It is recommended by the Delivery Group that the General Purposes, Audit, Pensions and Remuneration Committees be combined into a Corporate Committee. The Planning and Licensing Committees (and their Sub-Committees) along with the Miscellaneous Functions Sub-Committee will be combined into a single Regulatory Committee and its Planning Sub-Committee and its Licensing Sub-Committee.

Under the proposed new arrangements, it is intended that these bodies would hold fewer meetings in alignment with their defined work programmes.

3.4 Full Council

The Delivery Group are recommending that there will be five full Council meetings per year, taking place from 19:00 – 21:30. Those meetings would include the Annual Council, the Budget-setting Meeting, and three ordinary meetings that would involve a 'Haringey Debate'.

It is recommended that every year one debate topic is allocated to each group, and the remaining debate would be on the Mayor's theme. In addition there will be two motions at each ordinary meeting, one from each group, alternating in agenda order. In light of this arrangement, it is proposed that the specific Opposition Business item would no longer be on the agenda.

A review is being carried out on making appropriate access to information and answers to questions effective and prompt. When that is successful it is intended that the current overuse of written Council Questions will be significantly reduced.

3.5 Special Responsibility Allowances

The recommended changes to SRAs for Haringey reflect that:

- The number of cabinet Members has reduced from 9 to 7;
- The SRAs can be deleted for Chairs of those Committees that are being removed from the Constitution;
- Chairs of the Area Committees shall also sit on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, therefore duplication of SRAs can be deleted.

4. Members' Allowances Scheme 2011/12

In accordance with the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003, a Scheme of Members' Allowances must be annually approved and adopted by full Council. The Scheme for 2010/11 was in force until 31 March 2011, and therefore Council must adopt a new Scheme for 2011/12. It is proposed that the existing Scheme is approved and adopted, as

outlined in Appendix 2, for review at Annual Council in light of the proposed new Committees structure through the Governance Review.

A minor amendment to the existing Scheme is proposed, to align the Babysitting Allowance with the London Living Wage rather than the Minimum Wage as at present.

5. Recommendations

5.1 We recommend that members resolve:

- I. To approve the Delivery Group's proposals for implementing the Governance Review.
- II. To consider the detailed text changes to the Constitution at Annual Council in May 2011.
- III. To approve the Scheme of Members' Allowances for the municipal year 2011/12 as set out in Appendix 2 and to adopt this as the revised Part 6 of the Council's Constitution. This scheme shall be subject to review at the Annual Council meeting, with the proposed new Committees structure.

Appendix 1 – Composition of Proposed Committees

Area Committees	OSC	Corporate Committee	Regulatory Committee
Ward Cllrs for each area:	Total 9 Members	Total 7 Members	Total 10 Members
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St Ann's and Harringay • Wood Green • Crouch End • Muswell Hill • Tottenham and Seven Sisters • West Green and Bruce Grove • Northumberland Park and White Hart Lane 	<u>7 AC Chairs:</u> 5 Labour 2 Lib Dem <u>2 non-AC Chairs:</u> 2 Lib Dem	4 Labour 3 Lib Dem	6 Labour 4 Lib Dem

Part 6

Members’ Allowances Scheme

1. SCHEME FOR THE PAYMENT OF MEMBERS’ ALLOWANCES

- 1.01 Made in accordance with the Local Authorities (Members’ Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 and in force for the municipal year 2011/12 (i.e. 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2012).

2. BASIC ALLOWANCE

- 2.01 Each Councillor will be entitled to receive the sum of £10,500 by way of Basic Allowance.
- 2.02 If a Councillor does not serve as such for the whole 12-month period or becomes disqualified, he/she will only be entitled to receive pro-rata payment for the period(s) during which he/she actually was a serving Councillor. This principle applies to service on Council bodies by independent Standards Committee members and education representatives on scrutiny bodies.

3. INCLUDED EXPENSES

- 3.01 Travel Expenses.
The Basic Allowance includes all travel within the M25. Councillors are not entitled to any form of concession or special permit as Councillors for parking in the Borough.
- 3.02 Telephones and I.T.
The Basic Allowance includes Councillors’ telephone call charges, both mobile and landline, for which Councillors are billed individually. The Council meets the rental for apparatus, including broadband, and all datacharges.

4. MAYORAL ALLOWANCES

- 4.01 The additional allowances for the Mayor and Deputy Mayor are:
- (a) The Mayor is entitled to an additional allowance of £15,750.
 - (b) The Deputy Mayor is entitled to an additional allowance of £3,936.

5. SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY ALLOWANCES

5.01 Haringey Council will allocate Special Responsibility Allowances in four bands, to Councillors who take on certain additional roles.

Band	Position	Special Allowance	Total Allowance
Band 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leader 	£31,497	£41,997
Band 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 or fewer x Cabinet Members • Opposition Leader • Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee 	£23,622	£34,122
Band 2 Band 2 (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair of General Purposes Committee • Chief Whip • Chair of Planning Committee • Chair of Licensing Committee • Chair of Alexandra Palace and Park Board • Chair of Audit Committee • Chair of Pensions Committee • Opposition Deputy Leader • Opposition Chief Whip • 6 x Councillors on Overview and Scrutiny Committee 	£15,750	£26,250
Band 1	7 x Chairs of Area Assemblies	£7,875	£18,375

6. MULTIPLE RESPONSIBILITIES

6.01 Where a Councillor holds more than one post of special responsibility, he/she may only receive one Special Responsibility Allowance. Where a Councillor holds more than one post of special responsibility and the posts have Special Responsibility Allowances of different monetary values, the Councillor would receive the higher one. For the purposes of this paragraph, the Mayor and Deputy Mayor count as posts of special responsibility.

7. CO-OPTEEES' ALLOWANCES

- 7.01 Each independent Standards Committee member and each education representative on scrutiny bodies is entitled to an allowance of £616.50 excepting the Chair of the Standards Committee who is entitled to an allowance of £1,263. This incorporates all other allowances, with the exception of babysitting and dependants allowance. No allowances are payable to others who are not elected Councillors.

8. BABYSITTING AND DEPENDANTS ALLOWANCE

- 8.01 Councillors and non-elected members can claim this allowance based on the following :

- (a) That reimbursement be made at a maximum rate of ~~£5.80~~ £7.85 per hour. The period of payment should include the time of the meeting, together with reasonable travelling time of the member, plus any necessary travelling expenses of the carer to and from their home.
- (b) Children over the age of 16 must not be claimed for, unless suffering from an illness or disability making constant care essential.

9. TRAVELLING AND SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCE

Councillors can claim this allowance for attending approved meetings, training and conferences etc. only to the extent that it involves travel outside the M25. Claims must be based on the following :

- (a) The mileage rate for travel by private car is 34.6 pence per mile. An extra 3 pence per mile is payable for each passenger for whom a travelling allowance would otherwise be payable. The cost of tolls, ferries and parking charges can be claimed.

- (b) The mileage rate for travel by solo motor cycle is :

Not exceeding	150 cc	8.5 pence per mile
Over	150 cc but not over 500 cc	12.3 pence per mile
Over	500 cc	16.5 pence per mile

- (c) On public transport only the ordinary or cheaper fare can be claimed where more than one class is available.

(d) The cost of a taxi, including a reasonable tip, can be claimed only in case of urgency or where public transport is not practicable or reasonably available.

(e) The maximum rates for subsistence allowance on approved duties are as follows:

For an absence of more than 4 hours before 11.00	£4.92
For an absence of more than 4 hours including lunchtime between 12.00 and 14.00	£6.77
For an absence of more than 4 hours including the period 15.00 to 18.00	£2.67
For an absence of more than 4 hours ending after 19.00	£8.38

10. CLAIMS AND PAYMENTS

10.01 The Basic Allowance and Special Responsibility Allowances will be paid in equal monthly instalments.

10.02 The Co-optees' Allowance must be claimed by, and will be paid at, the end of the municipal year, subject to paragraphs 2.02 above and 10.04 below.

10.03 All claims for Travelling and Subsistence Allowance and Babysitting and Dependants Allowance must be made within two months of the relevant meeting or the costs being incurred by the Councillor or non-elected member, subject to paragraph 10.04 below..

10.04 If any Allowance under paragraphs 10.02 or 10.03 is not claimed within the prescribed time limit, the Head of Local Democracy & Members' Services shall have a discretion to make the payment nonetheless.

10.05 Any Councillor or non-elected member may elect to forego his/her entitlement to all or part of any allowance by giving written notice at any time to the Head of Local Democracy & Members' Services.

11. WITHHOLDING AND REPAYMENT OF ALLOWANCES

11.01 The Standards Committee or any of its Sub-Committees is authorised to withdraw the payment of the allowances set out below in whole or in part, as appropriate, in the event of a Councillor being suspended or partially suspended. The allowances covered by this provision are the following:

- (a) Basic Allowance;
- (b) Special Responsibility Allowance;
- (c) Travelling and Subsistence Allowances; and
- (d) Co-optees' Allowance.

11.02 Where the Standards Committee/Sub-Committee withdraws any of the above allowances in whole or in part and it transpires that the Councillor has already been paid in whole or in part for the relevant period of suspension or partial suspension, then the Standards Committee/Sub-Committee may require that the Councillor repay the relevant amount to the Council.

12. MEMBERSHIP OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME

12.01 All eligible Councillors are allowed to join the Local Government Pension scheme in respect of the Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances paid to them as part of this scheme of allowances.