



**Haringey** Council

<b>Report for:</b>	<b>FULL COUNCIL</b> <b>21 JULY 2014</b>	<b>Item number</b>	
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<b>Title:</b>	<b>Amendment to the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2014/15</b>
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<b>Report authorised by :</b>	<b>Chief Executive</b>
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<b>Lead Officer:</b>	<b>Clifford Hart, Democratic Services Manager</b> <b>Tel: 0208 489 2920</b>
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<b>Ward(s) affected:</b>  N/A	<b>Report for Key/Non Key Decision:</b>  N/A
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**1. Describe the issue under consideration**

- 1.1 Every year the Council is required, in accordance with the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003, to adopt a Members' Allowances Scheme to run from 1 April to 31 March the following year.
- 1.2 This report recommends to full Council an amendment to the Members' Allowances Scheme for the period 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015, which was agreed by Full Council on 24 March 2014. The revised Members' Allowances Scheme is set out at Appendix 1 attached.
- 1.3 As a result of the proposals to establish a Staffing & Remuneration Committee (reported to this meeting by the Informal Member Group convened under Article 15.03 of the Constitution at Agenda Item 6) it is necessary to amend the Members' Allowances Scheme to make provision of a Special Responsibility Allowance for the Chair of this Committee. The payment would commence from 22 July 2014 until to 31 March 2015.

- 1.4 This report also details the recent independent review of member allowances in London (see attached Appendix 2) and the proposed review of the current agreed arrangements for Members' Allowances in Haringey going forward.

## **2. Cabinet Member Introduction**

N/A

## **3. Recommendations**

- 3.1 That full Council resolves to amend the current Members' Allowances Scheme for 2014/15, to take effect from 22 July 2014, to include a Special Responsibility Allowance of £7,875 for the position of Chair of the newly created Staffing and Remuneration Committee.
- 3.3 That full Council note that the award of a Special Responsibility Allowance to the Chair of the Staffing and Remuneration is in place subject to an in-depth review of the whole Members' Allowance Scheme following the recent publication of London Council's report *The Remuneration of Councillors in London 2014 - Report of the Independent Panel* and that the findings of that review and any recommended changes be reported to full Council in due course.

## **4. Comments of the Chief Finance Officer and Financial Implications**

- 4.1 The Chief Finance Officer has reviewed the proposed changes to the Members' Allowances scheme and confirms that there is sufficient budget provision within 2014/15 cash limits to cover the costs of the proposed scheme.

## **5. Assistant Director of Corporate Governance comments and Legal Implications**

- 5.1 The legal implications have been considered within the body of this report and in the drafting of the Appendix 1.

## **6. Report**

- 6.1 The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 require local authorities to make a scheme of allowances for their members at the start of each municipal year. There is nothing to prevent full Council from amending the Scheme later in the year should it wish to do so, but a Scheme can only be revoked with effect from the beginning of each year.

- 6.2 The regulations stipulate that before a Council can agree or amend its Members' Allowances Scheme, it must consider recommendations made to it by an Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP), whose members cannot be members of the same authority. London Councils (formerly the Association of London Government) acts as the IRP for the London Boroughs.
- 6.3 With regard the Members' Allowances Scheme, the Local Government Act 2000 (Section 99) requires local authorities to set up an independent panel to consider an appropriate level of allowances for their members. The legislation contained special provision for London boroughs to use an independent panel set up by London Councils for this purpose rather than a local panel. Such panels only make recommendations – it remains the responsibility of the authority to decide the level of remuneration, and which members should be remunerated. The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 require a review of the scheme not less frequently than every four years. The London Independent Panel has been regularly reconvened and published reports in 2001, 2003, 2006 and 2010. The Independent Panel was set up again earlier this year in line with the statutory requirement to consider what might be an appropriate level of allowances. The Chair of the Panel met Leaders on 11 March 2014 to discuss the Panel's work. The Panel Members were Sir Rodney Brooke CBE DL (Chair), Anne Watts CBE and Steve Bundred. Attached at Appendix 2 are the findings of the 2014 review.
- 6.4 As a result of the 2014 Independent Review the current LB Haringey Members' Allowances Scheme as agreed will be reviewed and the findings of that review and any recommended changes will be reported to Full Council in due course.
- 6.5 Appendix 1 to this report shows the recommended changes to the Scheme in light of the establishment of the Staffing and Remuneration Committee. Table A details the Scheme and allowances applicable for the period 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015. Changes to the Scheme are shown in italics and underlined. There will be an additional special responsibility allowance to be paid to the Chair of the new Staffing and Remuneration Committee as of 22 July 2014.

**7. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985**

N/A

**8. Equalities and Community Cohesion Comments (*previous comments*)**

- 8.1 The Council has a public sector equality duty under S149 of the Equality Act 2010 to have due regard to need to:

- tackle discrimination and victimisation of persons that share the characteristics protected under S4 of the Act. These include the characteristics of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex (formerly gender) and sexual orientation;
- advance equality of opportunity between people who share those protected characteristics and people who do not;
- foster good relations between people who those characteristics and people who do not.

8.2 Policy and Equalities Team were consulted in the preparation of this report and that the proposals outlined in the report carry no apparent implications for any aspect of the duty outlined above.

## **9. Appendices**

9.1 Appendix 1: Revised Members' Allowances Scheme 2014/15

9.2 Appendix 2: *The Remuneration of Councillors in London 2014 - Report of the Independent Panel*