



Haringey Council

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| Report for: | FULL COUNCIL 23 MARCH 2015 | Item number | |
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| Title: | Agreeing the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2015/16 |
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| Report authorised by | Assistant Director of Corporate Governance and Monitoring Officer |
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| Lead Officer: | Michelle Williams, Senior Corporate Lawyer |
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| Ward(s) affected: N/A | Report for Key/Non Key Decision: 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 of the following year.
- 1.2 This report recommends to Full Council the Members' Allowances Scheme for the period 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016 as set out at Appendix 1.
- 1.3 In terms of the proposed amounts payable for Members Allowances for the period 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016, there are two changes proposed to the current 2014/15 scheme. It is proposed to increase the special responsibility allowance payable to the Chair of the Standards Committee and increase the Dependants' Carers' Allowance.
- 1.4 It should be noted that in 2014 regulations were introduced which ended the rights of Members to participate in the Local Government Pension Scheme. Since the introduction of those regulations the Council has made a saving of approximately £48,812 per annum in saved contributions to the LGPS for Members who were part of the scheme when the regulations were introduced.

1.5 Only two minor amendments to the scheme are proposed at this time but other changes may be made later in the year if other constitutional changes are made.

2. Cabinet Member Introduction

N/A

3. Recommendations

3.1 That Members resolve to revoke the current Members' Allowances Scheme as from 31 March 2015.

3.2 That Members resolve to adopt the Members' Allowances Scheme for 1 April 2015 – 31 March 2016 as set out in Appendix 1 to this report, and to adopt this as the replacement for Part 6 of the Council's Constitution, with the increased special responsibility allowance to be paid to the Chair of the Standards Committee and an increase in the Dependants' Carers' Allowance.

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 2015/16 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 Appendix 1.

6. Report

6.1 The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 ("the Regulations") 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.

- 6.3 The Regulations contain provisions for London Boroughs to use an Independent Remuneration Panel set up by London Councils for this purpose rather than a local panel. The Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) for London Councils has reviewed Members' allowances in 2014 and attached at Appendix 2 is its report and recommendations. The IRP only make recommendations and it remains the responsibility of each local authority to decide the level of remuneration, and which Members should be remunerated.
- 6.4 The recommendations in the 2014 IRP report at Appendix 2 have been considered in the preparation of the scheme which is subject of this report.
- 6.5 Appendix 1 to this report shows the recommended changes to the Scheme. Table A details the special responsibility allowances applicable for the period 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016. Changes to the Scheme are shown in italics and underlined. There are two amendments to the scheme. Firstly, it is proposed that there will be an increase in the special responsibility allowance payable to the Chair of the Standards Committee. This allowance is currently paid at a rate equal to the remuneration payable to the former Independent Chair of the Standards Committee i.e. £1263, under the provisions of the former Standards Regime for Members which was repealed by the Localism Act 2011. Following constitutional changes and the enhanced terms of reference of this Committee, it is more appropriate for this allowance to be allocated to band 1 i.e. £7875 which is the same special responsibility allowance as the Chair of the Pensions Committee. Secondly it is proposed to increase the Dependants' Carers' Allowance from £7.85 per hour to £8.60 per hour to bring it in line with the IRP recommendations. Save for these two amendments there are no changes in the allowances payable under the scheme.

7. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

N/A

8. Equalities and Community Cohesion Comments

- 8.1 The Council has a public sector equality duty under S149 of the Equality Act 2010 to have due regard to the 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, sex, gender reassignment, marriage and

civil partnership, pregnancy or maternity, race and ethnicity, religion or belief 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 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 2015/16

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