



Haringey Council

Agenda item:

[No.1]

Full Council

on

31 March 2008

Report Title: **Making the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2008/09**

Report of: **The Monitoring Officer and the Assistant Chief Executive, People Organisation and Development**

Wards(s) affected: **All**

Report for: **Decision by full Council**

1. Purpose (That is, the decision required)

1.1 To recommend to full Council the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2008/09 which is in accordance with the previous Council decision to link increases in the main allowances to the nationally agreed rate of salary increase for officers.

2. Recommendation

2.1 That Members resolve to make the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2008/09 as set out in Appendix 1 to this report and to adopt this as the replacement for Part 6 of the Council's Constitution.

Report Authorised by:

John Suddaby, Head of Legal Services
and Monitoring Officer

Stuart Young, Assistant Chief Executive
People Organisation and Development

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3. Director of Finance Comments

3.1 The proposed Members' Allowances Scheme is within the agreed budget.

4. Head of Legal Services Comments

4.1 The legal and constitutional implications are set out in the body of the report.

5. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

5.1 The Council's Constitution

6. Report

- 6.1 The Council must make its Members' Allowances Scheme afresh before the start of each municipal year in order that Members can be paid their allowances. This means that a report must be considered by full Council on 31st March so that the decision on the Scheme for 2008/09 can be made before the start of the new municipal year on 1 April. There is nothing to prevent full Council from amending the Scheme later in the year should it wish to do so.
- 6.2 A version of this report, together with the proposed Members' Allowances Scheme at Appendix 1, was considered by the Constitution Review Working Group (CRWG) at its meeting on 28 February and it was agreed to recommend the Scheme to this full Council. Under the Council's Constitution (Part 2, Article 15.03) any amendment to the Council's Constitution, which includes the Members' Allowances Scheme at Part 6, must be approved by full Council after recommendation by the CRWG.
- 6.3 The Council meeting on 13 November 2006 decided that the main allowances should be increased from 1 April 2007 in line with the rate of increase agreed in the national pay settlement for Council officers for 2007/08. At that time it was agreed in principle that allowances should be increased according to the same formula in subsequent years. Once the percentage rate for the officer settlement in 2008/09 is known, that rate of increase will be applied to the current allowances and back-dated payments from 1 April 2008 will be paid to Members as soon as possible.
- 6.4 The figures shown in Appendix 1 for the Basic Allowance, the Mayoral Allowances, the SRAs and the Co-optees' Allowances are all current and reflect the percentage increase for officers already in place for 2007/08. As already stated, the percentage increase for 2008/09 will be added to the figures shown when it is known without the need for a further report.
- 6.5 Appendix 1 to this report shows the recommended changes to the Scheme which are in italics and underlined. Most of these changes are simply updating, i.e. 2008 in place of 2007. There is a correction of a factual error in paragraph 5.01 about the banding of the Special Responsibility Allowances (SRAs) which will now state that there are four bands, not three.
- 6.6 The only substantive changes proposed are in paragraph 3.02. These relate to the telephone and IT expenses which are deemed to be included within each Member's Basic Allowance and are thus not met separately by the Council. The text changes aim to make it clearer that each Councillor will be billed individually for call charges for both mobiles and landlines. But the Council itself will pay the cost of renting the apparatus including broadband and of data charges.

6.7 The full Council must have regard to the report of the Independent Panel on the Remuneration of Councillors in London when it makes its decision. The Scheme proposes allowances which are well within those recommended by the Panel's report. The Panel's report is attached as Appendix 2 to this report.

7. Appendix

7.1 Appendix 1 to this report shows the Members' Allowances Scheme recommended for 2008/09.

7.2 Appendix 2 to this report is the Report from the Independent Panel on the Remuneration of Councillors in London dated October 2006.