

COUNCIL, 23 MAY 2018

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

MEMBER ALLOWANCES SCHEME– PROPOSED REVISION

The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 provide that a Local Authority shall make a scheme in accordance with these Regulations in respect of each year. Regulation 10 provides that such a scheme shall be made before the beginning of each year commencing on 1st April. Such a scheme may be amended during the year, but only revoked and replaced with a new scheme with effect from the beginning of a year.

Members approved the 2018/19 Member Allowances Scheme at Full Council in February 2018

Revisions to the Allowances Scheme

As a consequence of the proposed changes to the Council's Planning regime, revised arrangements are proposed for the award of special responsibility allowances to the Strategic Planning and Planning Committees.

As detailed elsewhere on the Council agenda it is proposed that the Rainham & South Hornchurch Party be replaced by the Joint Venture Working Party. The special responsibility allowance afforded to the revised working party is to remain unchanged.

~~It is also proposed to amend the special responsibility allowance levels for the Leaders of the Principal Opposition and Minority Opposition Groups. The changes are to reflect the diverse political make up of the Council and the accompanying workload expected to be placed upon those Group Leaders.~~

In order to reflect the fundamental importance this Council places on the democratic principle of holding the administration to account through strong and constructive opposition, it is recommended that:

- The Special Responsibility Allowances (SRAs) for Leaders of Minority Opposition Groups and the Leader of the Principle Opposition remain as agreed by Full Council on 21st February 2018, and;
- A substantial review of SRAs is undertaken at the earliest opportunity to more accurately reflect the level of payments with the associated workload and responsibilities of positions so that Value for Money is clearly demonstrated to Havering Council Tax Payers.

The proposed revisions to the Member Allowances Scheme do not affect the budgetary position. Any savings arising from the proposals will be reinvested into support services.

The revised list of members' allowances, if agreed, would be as follows:

Category of Allowance	Amount Per Member £	Previously agreed Scheme
<u>Basic Allowance</u>	10,208	10, 208
Special Responsibility Allowances:		
Leader of the Council	45,048	45,048
Deputy Leader of the Administration	31,420	31,420
Cabinet Members	28,780	28,780
Leader of Principal Opposition	7,650 14,418	14,418
Leader of Minority Opposition Groups	2,000 4,000	4,000
Mayor	12,000	12,000
Deputy Mayor	4,000	4,000
Overview and Scrutiny Board Chairman	14,418	14,418
Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee Chairmen	7,650	7,650
Strategic Planning, Planning and Licensing Committee Chairmen	14,418	14,418
Strategic Planning Committee Vice Chairman	7650	n/a
Planning Committee Vice-Chairman	2,000	2,000
Licensing Committee Vice Chairmen	+117	+117
Audit, Pensions, Highways and Governance Committees Chairmen	7,650	7,650
Adjudication & Review Committee Chairman	2,000	2,000
JV Working Party Chairman	7,650	7,650

+ per meeting chaired

Note:

In accordance with paragraph 4(c) of the Members' Allowance scheme, when a Councillor would otherwise be entitled to more than one special responsibility allowance, then the entitlement shall be to only one, that being the one attracting the higher rate

Under Regulation 19 of the 2003 Regulations, before an authority amends a scheme, it shall have regard to the recommendations made in relation to it by an independent remuneration panel.

The Council uses the London Council's Independent Review Panel in this regard and that panel has published a report, "*The Remuneration of Councillors in London 2018*", in January 2018. This report discusses the role of councillors and sets out recommended allowance levels. This includes special responsibility allowances.

Special Responsibility Allowances (SRAs) are presented in 5 bands determined by the types of role a Member may have. The allowance levels for each band are shown in a range and as a percentage of the remuneration package for a Council

Leader. This gives flexibility and takes into account the different level of complexity similar roles may have between Councils.

Due regard should be given to the Independent Review Panel report (attached as Appendix B) in determining the proposed scheme and comparisons between the proposed SRA levels and the recommendations of the Independent Panel.

Recommendation:

That the changes to the Member Allowances Scheme be implemented in the manner set out above and that a substantial review of SRAs is undertaken at the earliest opportunity-

Members' Allowances Scheme

Agreed at the meeting of the Council on 21 February 2018:

The new Scheme is agreed with effect from 1st April 2018 and the revocation of the Members' Allowance Scheme (2017) is effective from 31st March 2018.

The Council of the London Borough of Havering in exercise of the powers conferred by the Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 hereby makes the following scheme:

- 1 This scheme may be cited as the Havering London Borough Council Members' Allowance Scheme. The new scheme shall have effect from 1st April 2018.
- 2 In this scheme, "councillor" means a councillor of the London Borough of Havering and "year" means the period ending on 31st March 2019 and any period of 12 months ending on 31st March in any year after 2019.
- 3 **Basic allowance (Schedule 1)**
Subject to paragraphs 7 and 11, for each year a basic allowance of £10,208 shall be paid to each councillor.
- 4 **Special responsibility allowance (Schedule 1)**
 - (a) For each year a special responsibility allowance shall be paid to those councillors who hold the special responsibilities in relation to the Council that are specified in schedule 1 to this scheme.
 - (b) Subject to paragraph 7, the amount of each such allowance shall be the amount specified against that special responsibility in that schedule.
 - (c) When a councillor would otherwise be entitled under the scheme to more than one special responsibility allowance, then the entitlement shall instead be only to one of them, being the one attracting the higher rate.
 - (d) Where a Member is also a member of another authority, that Member may not receive allowances from more than one authority in respect of the same duties.
- 5 **Child and dependent care allowance**
These expenses are expected to be met from the Basic Allowance.
- 6 **Renunciation**
A Councillor may, by notice in writing given to the Chief Finance Officer, elect to forego any part of his/her entitlement to an allowance under this scheme.

7 **Part-year entitlements**

- (a) The provisions of this paragraph shall have effect to regulate the entitlements of a councillor to basic and special responsibility where, in the course of a year, this scheme is amended or that a councillor becomes, or ceases to be, a councillor, or accepts or relinquishes a special responsibility in respect of which a special responsibility allowance is payable.
- (b) If an amendment to this scheme changes the amount to which a councillor is entitled by way of a basic allowance or a special responsibility allowance, then in relation to each of the periods:
 - (i) beginning with the year and ending with the day before that on which the first amendment in that year takes effect, or
 - (ii) beginning with the day on which an amendment takes effect and ending with the day before that on which the next amendment takes effect, or (if none) with the year.

The entitlement to such an allowance shall be to the payment of such part of the amount of the allowance under this scheme as it has effect during the relevant period as bears to the whole the same proportion as the number of the days in the period bears to the number of days in the year.

- (c) Where the term of office of a councillor begins or ends otherwise than at the beginning or end of a year, the entitlement of that councillor to a basic allowance shall be to the payment of such part of the basic allowance as bears to the whole the same proportion as the number of days during which his/her terms of office subsists bears to the number of days in that year.
- (d) Where this scheme is amended as mentioned in paragraph 7(b), and the term of office of a councillor does not subsist throughout the period mentioned in paragraph 7(b)(i), the entitlement of any such councillor to a basic allowance shall be to the payment of such part of the basic allowance referable to each such period (ascertained in accordance with that paragraph) as bears to the whole the same proportion as the number of days during which his/her term of office as a councillor subsists bears to the number of days in that period.
- (e) Where a councillor has, during part of, but not throughout, a year such special responsibilities as entitle him or her to a special responsibility allowance, that councillor's entitlement shall be to payment of such part of that allowance as bears to the whole the same proportion as the number of days during which he or she has such special responsibilities bears to the number of days in that year.
- (f) Where this scheme is amended, as mentioned in paragraph 7(b), and a councillor has, during part, but does not have throughout, the whole of any period mentioned in paragraph 7(b)(i) of that paragraph any such special responsibilities as entitle him or her to a special

responsibility allowance, that councillor's entitlement shall be to payment of such part of the allowance referable to each such period (ascertained in accordance with that paragraph) as bears to the whole the same proportion as the number of days in that period during which he or she has such special responsibilities bears to the number of days in that period.

8 Travelling and Subsistence (Schedule 2)

- (a) Members can claim travelling expenses for travelling outside of the Borough on official Council business as set out in Schedule 2.
- (b) Members can claim subsistence expenses on official Council business when outside of the Borough as set out in schedule 2.

9 Claims and payments

- (a) Payments shall be made in respect of basic and special responsibility allowances, subject to paragraph 8(b), in instalments of one-twelfth of the amount specified in this scheme on the last working day of each month.
- (b) Where a payment of one-twelfth of the amount specified in this scheme in respect of a basic allowance or a special responsibility allowance would result in the councillor receiving more than the amount to which, by virtue of paragraph 7, he or she is entitled, then payment shall be restricted to such amount as will ensure that no more is paid than the amount to which he or she is entitled.
- (c) Payments in respect of Travel and Subsistence shall be made to the councillor on receipt of a claim form with supporting receipts/vouchers. Claims must be made within three months of the claim arising.

10 Pension Scheme

No Member in the scheme is entitled to apply for inclusion in the Pension Scheme.

11 Mayor and Deputy

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor's allowance covers the cost of all Mayoral activities such as clothing, personal expenses and sundry expenses – including items such as attendance at dinners, raffle tickets, sponsorship and donations.

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor will be responsible for all such payments via the SRA, which will be taxed. The Council will meet the cost of:

- Havering Civic receptions, award pins and certificates at the civic award ceremony;

- Medals, certificates and frames in the event of there being any ceremony associated with Honorary Alderman/Freeman of the Borough awards;
- Gifts given on behalf of the Council in reciprocation or gifts initiated by the Council for promotional purposes;
- Maintaining and provisioning the beverage machine in the Parlour;
- Postage costs and all costs associated with the Mayoral transport, robes etc.

12 **Co-Optees and Independent Persons' Allowances**

The standard rate of allowance for statutory co-optees is £117 per meeting attended.

The Independent Person for standards of Members' Conduct will be paid an annual allowance of £1,000, in monthly instalments.

Co-optees and Independent Persons will be reimbursed for all travel costs in accordance with the above, whether the travel is within or outside the Borough, but will not be paid subsistence.

13Note

- (a) The Council is required to keep a record of the payments made by it in accordance with this scheme.
- (b) The record is required to be available for inspection at all reasonable times free of charge by any local government elector for the borough who may make a copy of any part of it.
- (c) The Council is also required to arrange publication of the total sums paid in each year to each member in respect of basic and special responsibility allowances.
- (d) The Council is required to arrange publication of the Scheme when approved.

Schedule 1: Members' Allowances

Category of Allowance	Amount Per Member £
<u>Basic Allowance</u>	10,208
Special Responsibility Allowances:	
Leader of the Council	45,048
Deputy Leader of the Administration	31,420
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Strategic Planning Committee Vice Chairman	7,650
Planning Committee Vice-Chairman	2,000
Licensing Committee Vice Chairmen	+117
Audit, Pensions, Highways and Governance Committees Chairmen	7,650
Adjudication & Review Committee Chairman	2,000
JV Working Party Chairman	7,650

+ Per meeting chaired

NOTES: The basic allowance will be uplifted each year in accordance with paragraph 11.

Schedule 2: Travel and Subsistence

Travelling expenses can only be claimed for travel outside of the borough on official Council business. The rules and entitlements for reimbursement of travel outside the Borough are the same as those for officers.

Subsistence allowances are only payable for official Council business outside the borough where the duties entail an overnight stay or working outside 'normal office hours'. Members will be reimbursed actual expenditure incurred up to the maximum of the rates set for officers.

Allowances are payable on the basis of expenditure incurred and receipts must be submitted to support claims for subsistence allowances and travel costs.

Travel and subsistence arrangements for key events will be set in line with the above. Taking account of the practicalities of arrangements however, these will be set out and documented by the Chief Finance Officer, prior to each event and be agreed with the Cabinet Member for Financial Management.

