

ANNUAL COUNCIL, 23 MAY 2018 – SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

AGENDA ITEM 12 – MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME

Amended recommendation:

That the changes to the Members' Allowances Scheme be implemented as per the report, subject to the addition of paragraph 11 as shown below:

11 Financial Limits

The Chief Operating Officer will arrange for the budget for members allowances to be monitored to ensure that budgetary issues are reported to Members.

(a) Increases in Allowances

Basic Allowances as quoted will be updated for 2018/19 by any 2018/19 increases as agreed under the annual Local Government Pay Settlement of the Joint Negotiating Committee for Chief Officers of Local Authorities or its replacement under the local pay agreement. The amounts so calculated are to be rounded up to be divisible for payment purposes.

The amended basic allowance will be found on the Internet once any annual % uplifts have been agreed.

The Travelling and Subsistence allowances will be increased in line with the increase in officer rates.

Note: As highlighted by the Leader of the Upminster & Cranham Residents' Associations Groups, where, in previous versions of the scheme, there was reference to a power which existed for the Council to disqualify or suspend a member for a breach of the code of conduct or to withhold Members' allowances, these powers were abolished by the Localism Act 2011 and have therefore been removed from the proposed draft scheme.

Questions on behalf of the Residents' Group

1. Given that the same number of opposition groups exist after the recent local elections as before them, would the Leader of the Council provide an explanation as to how the opposition groups have become more diverse and what evidence can he provide to demonstrate that the workload of all the opposition Group Leaders will reduce by half to reflect the proposed 50% reduction in Leaders allowances?

2. Under The Local Authorities (Members') Regulations 2003, it states that before a scheme is amended, the authority shall have due regards to the recommendations made by an Independent remuneration panel, in this case, London Councils. Would the Leader of the Council explain how this due regard was considered in relation to the SRA for the Leader of the Opposition which it is proposed be over 50% less than the recommended MINIMUM by London Councils?
3. Given that the above report from London Councils places in Band two, the Leader of the Opposition and the Chair of the Scrutiny Board, would the Leader of the Council explain why there has been such discrimination in how these roles have been treated in terms of remuneration?
4. Given the generous allowance proposed for the Vice-Chair of Strategic Planning Committee and the limited number of occasions when vice-chairs are used in this council, Would the Leader of the Council confirm how he justifies equating the remuneration of this position with the role and workload performed by the Leader of the opposition.

Deemed motion on behalf of the Administration

That the report be adopted and its recommendations carried into effect.

Amendment on behalf of the Upminster and Cranham Residents' Associations Group

As shown in track changes on the attached document.

Amendment on behalf of the Independent Residents' Group

Council agrees minority group leader SRAs to remain the same @ £4,000