


<p>Non-Executive Report of the:</p> <p>Council</p> <p>Wednesday, 16 November 2022</p>	
<p>Report of: Janet Fasan, Director of Legal and Monitoring Officer</p>	<p>Classification: Open (Unrestricted)</p>
<p>Amendments to the Member Allowances Scheme</p>	

Originating Officer(s)	Matthew Mannion, Head of Democratic Services
Wards affected	(All Wards);

Executive Summary

This report asked Council to agree the following changes to the Member Allowances Scheme:

- Removal of the Mayoral Advisors Special Responsibility Allowance
- Clarification that a maximum of one Deputy Mayor Special Responsibility Allowance can be allocated.

Recommendations:

The Council is recommended to:

1. Agree the following changes to the Member Allowances Scheme for 2022-23 effective immediately.
 - Removal of the Mayoral Advisors Special Responsibility Allowance
 - Clarify that a maximum of one Deputy Mayor Special Responsibility Allowance can be allocated.

1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 The Council has responsibility for these decisions.

2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 Council can decide not to agree the proposed changes to the Member Allowances Scheme.

3. DETAILS OF THE REPORT

- 3.1 The Council has responsibility for the matters outlined in this report and is asked to make determinations as appropriate.
- 3.2 At the Annual Council meeting the Council made appointments to the posts that are entitled to Special Responsibility Allowances (SRA) in addition to the basic Member Allowance. These include posts such as Committee Chairs, the Speaker and similar.
- 3.3 However, no appointments were made to the Mayoral Advisor positions. It has been concluded that the position is not required at this time and so an SRA is also not required. It is therefore proposed to remove the SRA for Mayoral Advisors from the list.
- 3.4 In addition, only one Deputy Mayor has been appointed by the Mayor and it is similarly proposed to clarify the Member Allowances Scheme to state that only one Deputy Mayor SRA is payable. All other Cabinet Members will receive the regular Cabinet Member SRA.
- 3.5 The Mayoral Advisor SRA is currently set at £7,614 and the Deputy Mayor SRA is at £32,631 (with the Cabinet Member SRA at £21,754).

4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 None arising from this report.

5. OTHER STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This section of the report is used to highlight further specific statutory implications that are either not covered in the main body of the report or are required to be highlighted to ensure decision makers give them proper consideration. Examples of other implications may be:
- Best Value Implications,
 - Consultations,
 - Environmental (including air quality),
 - Risk Management,
 - Crime Reduction,
 - Safeguarding.
 - Data Protection / Privacy Impact Assessment.

- 5.2 Nil items.

6. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

- 6.1 The 2022-23 budget for Member Allowances is £1.183m. The amendments would result in expenditure savings for 1 x Chief Whip Special Responsibility

Allowance (£12k) [a change agreed at the July meeting], 3 x Mayoral Advisor SRA's (£23k) and 2 x difference between Deputy Mayor SRA and Cabinet Member SRA (£22k). Total saving of £57k.

7. COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES

- 7.1 The Local Authorities (Members' Allowance) (England) Regulations 2003 ("the Regulations") require the local authority in each year to make a scheme in accordance with the Regulations. The Scheme must make provision for the payment of the basic allowance and specify the amount. The Regulations state that the local authority "may" make provision for the special responsibility allowance, but it is not obliged to do so.
- 7.2 In addition, Part B, Section 3 paragraph 4(a) of the Constitution gives Council authority to amend revoke or replace the Members' Allowance Scheme.
- 7.3 The matters set out in the report comply with the relevant legislation.
- 7.4 When considering the scheme, the Council must have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful conduct under the Equality Act 2010, the need to advance equality of opportunity and the need to foster good relations between persons who share protected characteristics and those who do not (the public sector equality duty).
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Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- None.

Appendices

- None.

Local Government Act, 1972 Section 100D (As amended)

List of "Background Papers" used in the preparation of this report

List any background documents not already in the public domain including officer contact information.

- None.

Officer contact details for documents:

N/A