

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2017/2018 – REPORT NO. **125**

COUNCILLOR CONDUCT COMMITTEE

7 December 2017

REPORT OF:

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Contact Officers:

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Agenda – Part 1	Item: 6
Subject: Members' Expenses	
Wards: All	
Key Decision No: Not applicable	
Cabinet Member consulted: Not applicable	

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. Consideration of members' expenses is included on the Committee's work programme for 2017/2018.
- 1.2. This report outlines expenses paid to Members in pursuance of their duties and provides some comparator information.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. That the Committee notes the information provided and considers whether any resultant actions are required.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1. Members will be aware that the members' allowances scheme, which forms part 6 of the constitution, governs the amounts each councillor is entitled to receive in performance of their duties.
- 3.2. The basic allowance in Enfield is £10,570 per annum.
 - 3.2.1. In addition, "members are entitled to receive travelling and subsistence allowances where such expenditure is necessarily incurred outside of the Borough of Enfield for the purpose of attending, as the Council's nominated representative, a meeting of any of the bodies or organisations to which the Council nominates

representatives and attending a conference or other meeting ... as the Council's representative.”

- 3.3. The council is required to publish details of the total sums paid to members in each municipal year, including expenses. These details are published on the council’s website but the full schedules for the 2015/2016 and 2016/2017 municipal years are appended to this report.
- 3.4. In summary, expenses totalling £210.75 were claimed in 2016/2017, down from £615 in 2015/2016.

3.4.1. Comparator details for 2016/2017 are set out below for information:

Authority	Basic Allowance (£)	Expenses Claimed (£)
Enfield	10,570	211
Croydon	11,239	2,026
Barnet	10,597	Not published
Haringey	10,703	2,114
Hackney	10,262	1,682
Islington	9,911	220
Merton	8,694	217
Newham	10,937	2,837
Bexley	9,418	Not published
Richmond	9,400	None Claimed
Lewisham	9,812	978
Southwark	10,832	Not published

- 3.5. In the 2017/2018 municipal year to date, 3 members have claimed expenses totalling £198.12. These consist of £177.90 for train fares, £13.60 for parking tickets and £6.60 for refreshments.
- 3.6. As far as other services that might be considered as expenses is concerned, the following costs have been incurred from 1st April 2016 to 31st March 2017:

• I pads	x 2 replaced	£ 770
(I pads at £335 x 53)		
• Laptops	x 1 replaced	501
• Mobile telephones	x 1 replaced	137
	3G & 4G	£14,271
Total Expenses		£15,679

This equates to an average of £249 per Member.

3.7. There are in addition costs incurred on an annual basis, as follows:

• Ipad Apps/Licences	53 Members	£3,118
• Laptop licences, etc.	10 Members	£1,280
Total annual costs		£20,077

This equates to an average of £319 per Member.

3.8. There is also a £3,700 per annum budget set aside for Member training and development and attendance at seminars and conferences, etc. This equates to a notional allocation per Member of £59.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4.1. Not applicable.

5. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1. To note the information provided and to consider whether any resultant actions are required.

6. COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE, RESOURCES AND CUSTOMER SERVICES AND OTHER DEPARTMENTS

6.1. Financial implications

6.1.1. The total expenditure on members' allowances in the 2016/2017 financial year was £988,516.75 with expenses in that year totalling £211.

6.2. Legal implications

6.2.1. None identified

6.3. Property implications

6.3.1. None identified.

7. KEY RISKS

7.1. None identified

8. IMPACT ON COUNCIL PRIORITIES

8.1. The report's contents meet the Council priorities of Fairness for All, Growth and Sustainability and Strong Communities.

9. EQUALITIES IMPACT IMPLICATIONS

9.1. No equalities impact assessment has been undertaken and is not necessary.

10. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

10.1. None identified.

11. HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

11.1. None identified.

12. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

12.1. None identified.

13. PUBLIC HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

13.1. None identified

Background papers

None