

COUNCILLOR CONDUCT COMMITTEE

Thursday 4 October 2018

REPORT OF:

Jeremy Chambers

Director of Law and Governance

Contact Officer:

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

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. Consideration of members' expenses is included on the Committee's work programme for 2018/2019.
- 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 2016/2017 and 2017/2018 municipal years are appended to this report.
- 3.4. In summary, expenses totalling £322.10 were claimed in 2017/2018, up from £210.75 in 2016/2017.

3.4.1. Comparator details for 2017/2018 are set out below for information:

| Authority | Basic Allowance (£) | Expenses Claimed (£) |
|-----------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Enfield | 10,570 | 322 |
| Croydon | 11,239 | Not published |
| Barnet | 10,597 | Not published |
| Haringey | 10,703 | Not published |
| Hackney | 10,469 | 3,896 |
| Islington | 10,111 | Not published |
| Merton | 8,694 | 108 |
| Newham | 10,842 | Not published |
| Bexley | 9,418 | Not published |
| Richmond | 9,450 | Not published |
| Lewisham | 9,812 | 351.80 |
| Southwark | 11,049 | Not published |

- 3.5. In the 2018/2019 municipal year to date, 1 member has claimed expenses totalling £11.50. This consists of £4.40 for train fares and £7.10 for parking.
- 3.6. As far as other services that might be considered as expenses is concerned, the following costs have been incurred from 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018:

| | | |
|---|---------------|-------------------|
| • Ipad/Tablets (£335) | x 4 replaced | £ 1,340.00 |
| • Laptops (£501) | x 2 replaced | 1,002.00 |
| • Mobile telephones (£137) | x 4 replaced | 548.00 |
| • Average monthly 3G (£600.57) & 4G (£828.50) | x 12 replaced | 17,148.84 |
| Total Expenses | | £20,038.84 |

This equates to an average of £318.08 per Member (x 63)

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

| | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|----------|
| • Ipad Apps/Licences | 56 Members (£58.83) | 3,294.49 |
| • Laptop licences, etc. | 6 Members (£128) | 768.00 |

Total annual costs including above figures **£24,101.33**

This equates to an average of £382.56 per Member. This is up by £63.56 per member (last year's figure was £319).

3.8. Last year, there was a budget of £3,700 per annum set aside for Member training and development and attendance at seminars and conferences, etc. This year's figure is yet to be agreed and will be discussed at the Strategic Development Board meeting in October 2018.

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 RESOURCES

6.1. Financial implications

6.1.1. The total expenditure on members' allowances in the 2017/2018 financial year was £975,413.10 with expenses in that year totalling £322.10.

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