

London Borough of Enfield

Meeting: Annual Council

Meeting Date: 1 July 2020

Subject: Members Allowances and Special Responsibility Allowances

Cabinet Member: Leader

Purpose of Report

1. The report outlines changes to the members special responsibility allowance (SRA).

Proposals

2. That the current Members Allowances Scheme is re-approved as set out in Part 6 of the Constitution, with the amendments below.
3. That the automatic increase in allowances by the average earnings as at March 2020:
 - (i) Not be implemented for the 2020/21 financial year; or
 - (ii) Is implemented for the 2020/21 financial year.

Background

4. 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.
5. If the annual increase in allowances is applied, the annual increase would be 1.5% equalling to £159. This would raise the basic allowance to £10,729 from £10,570. The overall increase in cost for 63 councillors would be £10,017 in total.

Main Considerations for the Council

6. The proposals take into account the proposed new committee structure for the Council and the additional Associate Cabinet Member post. The approach put forward in this report allows for more transparent Member roles and delivery of more focused working.

7. The current SRA levels are set out below:

Current	£
Leader of majority party	26,364
Deputy Leader of majority party	15,828
Leader of the Opposition Party	15,828
Majority party Whip	8,437
Opposition Party Whip	4,223
Cabinet x 8 @ £13184	10,5472
OSC x 8 @ £8442	67,536
ACMs x 3 @ £7608	22,824
Chair of Planning	8,442
Chair of Licensing	8,442
Chair of Audit & Risk	8,442
Chair of Pension Policy & Investment Cttee	1,000
Chair of Local Pension Board	1,000
Mayor*	17,788
Deputy Mayor	5,876
Total	317,502.00

* this sum includes £3,000 to cover hosting of events in the Mayors' Parlour

8. The revised special responsibility allowance, if agreed, would be as follows:

Proposed	£	Cost to change
Leader of majority party	26364	-
Deputy Leader of majority party	15828	-
Leader of the Opposition Party	15828	-
Majority party Whip	8437	-
Opposition Party Whip	4223	-
Cabinet x 8 @ £13184	105472	-
OSC x 8 @ £7608	60864	- (6,672.00)
ACMs x 4 @ £7608	30432	- 7,608.00
Chair of Planning	7608	- (834.00)
Chair of Licensing	7608	- (834.00)
Chair of General Purposes	7608	- (834.00)
Chair of Pension Policy & Investment Cttee	7608	6,608.00
Chair of Local Pension Board	1000	-
Mayor*	17,788	-
Deputy	5,876	-
Chair of Environment Forum	7,608	7,608.00
NLWA x 2 @ 7608	15,216	15,216.00
Chair of Equalities Board	1,000	1,000.00
Fostering x 2 @ 3804	7,608	7,608.00
Total	353,976.00	36,474.00

* this sum includes £3,000 to cover hosting of events in the Mayors' Parlour

9. Members will only be entitled to one SRA which means £36,474 would be the maximum additional cost.
10. The revisions consider the proposed changes to the scrutiny function, the Council's committee structure and the introduction of a fourth Associate Cabinet Member with the focus of children and young people. Should the proposals not be approved the SRA level for these positions would have to be reconsidered.

Safeguarding Implications

11. There are no safeguarding implications from this report.

Public Health Implications

12. There are no public health implications from this report.

Equalities Impact of the Proposal

13. There is no impact on equalities from these proposals.

Environmental and Climate Change Considerations

14. There are no environmental or climate change considerations from this report.

Risks that may arise if the proposed decision and related work is not taken

15. There is no risk.

Risks that may arise if the proposed decision is taken and actions that will be taken to manage these risks

16. There is no risk.

Financial Implications

17. The proposal in this report would result in an additional cost of £36k due to changes in the Special Responsibility Allowance as a result of the changes to the scrutiny function, the council's committee structure and the introduction of a fourth associate cabinet member. This will need to either be managed within existing budgets in 2020-21 or any arising budget pressure reported as part of the council's budget monitoring arrangements. A budget growth will need to be submitted for consideration and upon approval inclusion into the MTFP to fund the additional cost in future years.

Legal Implications

18. The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 (as amended) (LAMAER) are made under the provisions of section 18

Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and require local authorities to make a scheme of allowances for their members and to establish and maintain an independent remuneration panel to make recommendations to the Council about the scheme and the amounts to be paid including which members are entitled to pensions in line with The Local Government Pension Scheme and Discretionary Compensation (Local Authority (Members in England) Regulations 2003.

19. The LAMAER make specific provision for London Councils to establish a panel, which could exercise the functions of an independent remuneration panel on behalf of London borough councils and regard has to be had to the report of the Independent Panel on the Remuneration of Councillors in London established by London Councils on behalf of all London Councils published in January 2018.
20. The Monitoring Officer pursuant to Part 2 paragraph 9.3(a) has a duty to maintain an up to date version of the constitution to make any necessary amendments to it at Part 6 following the outcome of the decisions in this report.

Workforce Implications

21. There are no workforce implications.

Property Implications

22. There are no property implications.

Other Implications

23. There are no other implications.

Options Considered

24. That no amendment should be made to the special responsibility allowances for members. This was rejected as it would not reflect the proposed changes to the Councils committee structure.

Report Author: Jeremy Chambers
 Director of Law and Governance

Date of report: 1 July 2020

Appendices

None.

Background Papers

None.