

London Borough of Enfield

Meeting: Council

Meeting Date: 2 March 2021

Subject: Members Allowances Scheme 2021/22

Cabinet Member: Leader

Purpose of Report

1. This report performs the statutory annual review of Members' allowances for the 2021/22 financial year.

Proposals

2. That the current Members Allowances Scheme is re-approved as set out in Part 6 of the Constitution.
3. That the automatic increase in allowances by the average earnings as at March 2020 not be implemented for the 2021/22 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. The proposal is not to accept an annual increase in allowances. However, for information, the effect if the annual increase was applied would be an increase of 1.5% equalling to £159 each. 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 Council is required under the Local Government Act 2000 and the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 to undertake an annual review of its Members' Allowances scheme and approve any amendments to the scheme.

Safeguarding Implications

7. There are no safeguarding implications from this report.

Public Health Implications

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

Equalities Impact of the Proposal

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

Environmental and Climate Change Considerations

10. 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

11. There is no risk.

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

12. There is no risk.

Financial Implications

13. There are no financial implications based on the proposals within the report.

Legal Implications

14. 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.
15. 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.
16. 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.

Workforce Implications

17. There are no workforce implications.

Property Implications

18. There are no property implications.

Other Implications

19. There are no other implications.

Options Considered

20. The members allowances scheme must be approved annually. Members have the option to either implement the automatic increase in allowances by the average earnings as at March 2020 or not to implement the increase for the 2021/22 financial year.

Report Author: Jeremy Chambers
Director of Law and Governance

Date of report 2nd March 2021

Appendices

None.

Background Papers

Constitution Part 6.