

Report of the General Purposes Committee held on 31 January 2024

Present: Councillors David Boothroyd (Chair), Ellie Ormsby, Tim Mitchell

Members' Allowance Scheme 2024-2025

- (a) The Council is required, if it wishes to pay such allowances, to adopt a Members' Allowances Scheme on an annual basis with effect from 1 April each year.
- (b) In drawing up the Members' Allowances Scheme, regard under the relevant legislation must be given to the recommendations of the London-wide Independent Remuneration Panel convened by London Councils. The report of the Remuneration Panel made several recommendations on Members Allowances which were outlined in the report the Committee discussed.
- (c) Several options were explored by officers and these were set out for the Committee to have regard to. In addition, cross-party consultation had taken place, following which officers had recommended Option 2 for approval.
- (d) In considering the proposals the Committee noted the views of both political parties of the council and following discussions the Committee agreed to recommend to Full Council Option 2 as the most appropriate method to update the scheme in this year. This option, as set out in the report, was to recommend a 3.88% increase in basic and special responsibility allowances, which reflected the staff pay award.
- (e) The Committee also discussed changes in the Allowances scheme in future year and recommended that Full Council agree to increase the Members' Allowances (Basic and SRA) for the years 2024/25 and 2025/26 in line with any future salary increase for Council staff that may be agreed by the National Joint Council for Local Government Services.

Recommendation:

That Full Council:

- 1) Be recommended to approve Option 2 of the Member Allowances 2024-2025 Scheme, a 3.88% uplift across all allowances (Basic and SRAs) as set out in the General Purposes Committee Report, with effect from 1 April 2024.
- 2) Be recommended to agree to increase the Members' Allowances (Basic and SRA) for the years 2024/25 and 2025/26 in line with any future salary increase for Council staff that may be agreed by the National Joint Council for Local Government Services.

David Boothroyd, Chair

Background Papers

Appendix 1 - Report to General Purposes Committee (31.01.24)