



Leicester
City Council

WARDS AFFECTED
All Wards

7.3

Full Council

6 July 2017

Member Allowances Scheme 2017/18 – Confirmation of Scheme

Report of the Director of Delivery, Communications and Political Governance

1. Purpose of report

This report confirms the Member Allowances Scheme for 2017/18.

2. Recommendations

Members are recommended to:

1. Confirm the Members Allowances Schemes for 2017/18 (attached at appendix 1) including the ability for the City Mayor to vary Deputy and Assistant City Mayor Special Responsibility Allowances according to changing responsibilities within the overall financial envelope for these allowances, and the minor amendment to section 5ii of the Scheme relating to the commencement of allowances after an election.

3. Report

The main Regulations relating to Members Allowances are the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 (the Regulations).

Section 19.1 of the Regulations require that all councils must make a scheme providing for the payment of allowances to Members (i.e. Councillors and Elected Mayors) and that before a Council makes or amends such a Members' Allowances Scheme, it must publish and have regard to a report and recommendations made by its statutory Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP).

The Council received the latest IRP report in March 2016 and this was agreed by Council on 17 March 2016. Following the confirmation of the Local Government employees pay award of 1% for both 2016/17 and for 2017/18, Council at its meeting on 14 July 2016, were then able to agree the Members Allowances Schemes for 2016/17 and 2017/18 implementing indexation of allowances in line with the IRP report. It is good practice to ensure that the Council reviews and reaffirms the allowance Scheme on an annual basis. On that basis, this report presents the Scheme for 2017/18 which includes the application of the indexation of 1%. The Scheme is presented at Appendix 1.

The new Allowance Scheme has been effective for more than a year and is working well, and as such there is no anticipated need to suggest any substantive changes. One proposed minor amendment is to clarify in section 5ii of the Scheme (in line with legislation) when allowances commence after an election and that a Member's declaration of acceptance of office must be made before this can happen.

It should also be noted that in practice, currently one member of the Executive has agreed with the City Mayor to take an allowance which is lower than their assigned allowance band in recognition of the level of time and input the role requires. This report proposes that such an approach to vary from the amounts specified in the Allowance Scheme is applicable for the Deputy and Assistant City Mayor Special Responsibility Allowances (SRAs) provided any variance does not result in the combined total allowances for these roles exceeding the total allocated budget for Executive SRAs. A footnote reflecting this has been added to the Scheme.

Appendix 1 is the Member Allowance Scheme for 2017/18 which includes application of the 1% indexation.

4. FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS

4.1. Financial Implications

The proposed Scheme is affordable within the current budget provision.

Colin Sharpe, Head Finance

4.2 Legal Implications

Whilst the Scheme for 2016/17 and 2017/18 was duly approved by Council towards the end of the municipal year 2015/16 it is good practice to periodically reaffirm this with Council. In addition amendments are proposed in line with the recommendation in section 2 which is a matter for Council. The current version of the Scheme accords with the recommendations of the IRP dated March 2016. The proposed version of the Scheme operates within the same parameter for SRAs as proposed by the IRP, albeit vesting in the City Mayor the power to fine-tune SRAs for the Deputy and Assistant Mayors in a more bespoke manner. Council are not required to follow precisely the recommendations of the IRP. The legal duty is to "have regard" to them.

Kamal Adatia, City Barrister & Monitoring Officer

4.3 Climate Change

There are no climate change implications associated with the report.

Louise Buckley, Senior Environmental Consultant – Climate Change

5. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

OTHER IMPLICATIONS	YES/NO	Paragraph References Within the Report
Equal Opportunities	n	There are no specific implications relating to this report.
Policy	n	
Sustainable and Environmental	n	
Crime and Disorder	n	
Human Rights Act	n	
Elderly/People on Low Income	n	
Corporate Parenting	n	
Health Inequalities Impact	n	

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS – LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

None

7. CONSULTATIONS

Kamal Adatia, City Barrister & Monitoring Officer

8. REPORT AUTHOR

Miranda Cannon
Director of Delivery, Communications & Political Governance