

REPORT FOR DECISION

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| Agenda Item | |
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| DECISION OF: | COUNCIL |
| DATE: | 14 SEPTEMBER 2011 |
| SUBJECT: | MEMBERS' ALLOWANCE SCHEME |
| REPORT FROM: | LEADER |
| CONTACT OFFICER: | Jayne Hammond Monitoring Officer and Council Solicitor |
| TYPE OF DECISION: | COUNCIL |
| FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/STATUS: | This paper is within the public domain. |
| SUMMARY: | This report seeks approval to amendments to the Member's Allowances Scheme for 2011/12, following discussion between the three political group leaders. |
| OPTIONS & RECOMMENDED OPTION | <p>Members are asked to:-</p> <p>Approve the following changes to the Member's Allowances Scheme for 2011/12:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Special Responsibility Allowances be no longer paid for Chairs associated with local area working, currently Township Forums. 2. The Special Responsibility Allowances listed in the report be the subject of a 10% reduction for 2011/12. 3. During 2011/12, travel expenses be no longer paid in respect of journeys undertaken by elected members within the Borough. |
| IMPLICATIONS: | None as a direct result on this report. |
| Corporate Aims/Policy Framework: | Do the proposals accord with the Policy Framework? Yes |
| Statement by the S151 Officer: Financial Implications and Risk Considerations: | The savings resulting from the proposals set out in the report are summarised in paragraph 2.3 and will be available to assist |

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| | with the budget pressures facing the Council. |
| Statement by Executive Director of Corporate Resources: | There are no wider resource implications. |
| Equality/Diversity implications: | None |
| Considered by Monitoring Officer: | Yes. |
| Wards Affected: | All |
| Scrutiny Interest: | None |

TRACKING/PROCESS

DIRECTOR:

| Chief Executive/ Strategic Leadership Group | Executive | Ward Members | Partners |
|---|-----------|--------------|----------|
| Yes | | | |
| Scrutiny Committee | Committee | Council | |
| | | Yes | |

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Member's Allowance Scheme is drawn up by an Independent Remuneration Panel which meets and considers a Scheme for the Council based on guidance set out in the Consolidated Regulations for Local Authority Allowances. The Panel makes recommendations to the Council in respect of the type of allowances to be paid and the amount for each type of allowance. The Panel makes a judgement as to the level of allowance paid to reflect the hours worked by members in undertaking specific tasks and duties, against guidance that some element of the work undertaken by Members should be regarded as voluntary.
- 1.2 The allowances which are or may be payable to Members are as follows:
- Basic Allowance
 - Special Responsibility Allowance
 - Dependants' Carers' Allowance
 - Travelling and Subsistence Allowance
- 1.3 The Independent Remuneration Panel makes recommendations to the Council but the Scheme, or amendments to it, has to be agreed and adopted by the Council. It is against this reporting mechanism that the Council is asked to consider amendments to the Member's Allowance Scheme, which are being put forward as a means of reducing expenditure during the current difficult financial climate.

- 1.4 Consultation has taken place between the three Group Leaders and proposals are put forward in Section 2.

2.0 ISSUES

- 2.1 Council is recommended to agree a 10% reduction in the level of Special Responsibility Allowance, and no longer pay a Special Responsibility Allowance for Chairs associated with local area working, currently Township Forums.

Details are set out below:

| Special Responsibility Allowance | Current (£) | Proposed (£) | Actual (£) |
|---|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Leader | 25,174.17 | 22,656.75 | 22,656.75 |
| Deputy Leader | 15,109.77 | 13,598.79 | 13,598.79 |
| Leader – Second Largest Group | 8,310.36 | 7,479.32 | 7,479.32 |
| Deputy Leader - Second Largest Group | 3,320.85 | 2,988.77 | 2,988.77 |
| Leader – Third Largest Group | 4,156.28 | 3,740.65 | 0 |
| Deputy Leader - Third Largest Group | 1,662.08 | 1,495.87 | 1,495.87 |
| Executive Member for Finance | 10,070.98 | 9,063.88 | 0 |
| Executive Member for Children & Families | 10,070.98 | 9,063.88 | 9,063.88 |
| Executive Member for Adult Care, Health and Housing | 10,070.98 | 9,063.88 | 9,063.88 |
| Executive Member for Communities | 10,070.98 | 9,063.88 | 9,063.88 |
| Executive Member for Environment & Economy | 10,070.98 | 9,063.88 | 9,063.88 |
| Executive Member for Leisure, Tourism & Culture | 10,070.98 | 9,063.88 | 9,063.88 |
| Executive Member for HR and Performance | 10,070.98 | 9,063.88 | 9,063.88 |
| Executive Member without Portfolio | 6,296.83 | 5,677.15 | 0 |
| Executive Member without Portfolio | 6,296.83 | 5,677.15 | 5,677.15 |
| Chair of Planning Control Committee | 6,296.83 | 5,677.15 | 5,677.15 |
| Chair of Licensing and Safety Panel | 6,296.83 | 5,677.15 | 5,677.15 |
| Chair of HR and Appeals Panel | 6,296.83 | 5,677.15 | 0 |
| Chair of Audit Committee | 6,296.83 | 5,677.15 | 5,677.15 |
| Chair of Overview Management Committee | 6,296.83 | 5,677.15 | 5,677.15 |
| Chair of Internal Scrutiny Committee | 6,296.83 | 5,677.15 | 5,677.15 |
| Chair of External Scrutiny Committee | 6,296.83 | 5,677.15 | 5,677.15 |
| Chair of R, Tottington and NM TF | 6,296.83 | Delete | 0 |
| Chair of Radcliffe TF | 6,296.83 | Delete | 0 |
| Chair of Prestwich TF | 6,296.83 | Delete | 0 |
| Chair of Bury East TF | 6,296.83 | Delete | 0 |
| Chair of Bury West TF | 6,296.83 | Delete | 0 |
| Chair of Whitefield and Unsworth TF | 6,296.83 | Delete | 0 |
| Total Cost | 222,682.82 | 166,411.66 | 142,272.83 |

- 2.2 It is further recommended that travel expenses should not be paid in respect of journeys undertaken by elected members within the Borough. This would include journeys to and from the Town Hall in order to attend meeting. Based on payments made last year, this will produce a further saving in the region of £3,000.
- 2.3 This means that the policy changes proposed in the report will lead to annual savings of £59,272 (including travel savings). In addition, the portfolio structure implemented by the new administration will save a further £24,138 giving a total saving of £83,410.

3.0 CONCLUSION

- 3.1 As stated, this recommendation is put before Members as a means of saving expenditure at the current time. However, as the Scheme is compiled by an Independent Panel which attributes values against allowances based on an objective appraisal, it is suggested that the recommended changes are seen as a temporary adjustment to the Scheme, which should be reviewed annually.

List of Background Papers:-

Member's Allowances Scheme

Contact Details:-

Jayne Hammond
Assistant Director of Legal and Democratic Services.

Chris Shillitto
Head of Democratic Services