

REPORT TO:	ANNUAL COUNCIL 25 May 2022
SUBJECT:	Amendments to the Scheme of Members' Allowances
LEAD OFFICER:	Jane West, Corporate Director of Resources and Section 151 Officer
WARDS:	All
PUBLIC/EXEMPT:	Public

SUMMARY OF REPORT:

This report asks Council to agree amendments to the Scheme of Allowances, including clarification of which political groups certain allowances will be payable to.

COUNCIL PRIORITIES 2020-2024

The Council is required by statute to review, publicise and maintain a scheme of allowances for its elected Members.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There are no new financial implications arising from the proposals in this report, which is financially neutral. As such, the costs of the amendments proposed in the report are already contained within the existing budget for Members' Allowances.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. To approve the proposed amendments detailed in paragraph 2 of the report with effect from 9 May 2022 (if applicable);
2. Subject to recommendation 1, to authorise the Monitoring Officer to comply with the necessary statutory publicity requirements in respect of the approval of the revised Members' Allowance Scheme; and
3. Authorise the Monitoring Officer to make all necessary updates to the Constitution.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1. The Council is required by statute to review, maintain and publicise a scheme of allowances paid to its elected members.
- 1.2. Council last agreed changes to the Scheme of Members' Allowances, recommended to it by the General Purposes and Audit Committee, at its meeting on 23rd March 2022.

2. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE SCHEME OF ALLOWANCES

- 2.1 Following the local elections held on 5 May 2022, a number of amendments have been proposed to the scheme of allowances as described below.

Clarification of Special Responsibility Allowances

- 2.2 The current scheme makes provision for a number of special responsibility allowances to be payable to 'majority' and 'opposition' Members. Given that the Council is now under no overall political control, descriptions of 'majority' and 'opposition' Members is problematic. While the Constitution does clarify that the largest political group on the Council of which the Executive Mayor is not a Member shall be known as the 'opposition', it does not cater fully for Croydon's full circumstances. On that basis, it is proposed that the following name changes be made for clarity:

Current SRA Name	Proposed SRA Name
Majority Group Secretary	Conservative Group Secretary
Majority Chief Whip	Conservative Chief Whip
Leader of the Opposition	Leader of the Labour Group
Deputy Leader of the Opposition	Deputy Leader of the Labour Group
Opposition Chief Whip	Labour Chief Whip
Opposition Group Secretary	Labour Group Secretary

Other Amendments to Special Responsibility Allowances

- 2.3 It is also proposed that a new Special Responsibility Allowance be created for the role of Chair of the General Purposes Committee, payable at a rate of £5,615.20 per annum, the funding for this new role to be met by an equivalent reduction in the total sum in the current scheme available for Deputy Cabinet Members, currently £33,072 per annum.
- 2.4 Finally, it is proposed to amend the scheme to increase the number of Members that can be paid the Special Responsibility Allowance for Deputy Cabinet Members from 4 to 5. Taking into account the reduction in the overall amount available for these allowances described in 2.3 above, as well as the increased number of eligible Members, the rate of this allowance will be reduced from £8,268 each per annum to £5,491.36 each per annum.
- 2.5 The changes above are summarised in a proposed new schedule to the scheme, attached at Appendix 1 to this report. If approved, the scheme in the Constitution will be updated and any other necessary updates to the Constitution will also be made.

3. CONSULTATION

- 3.1 The proposals detailed in the report primarily affect Members of the Conservative and Labour Groups on the Council and have been produced following consultation with those two groups.
- 3.2 Members will be aware that Council is required to have regard to the latest recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel before making or amending a Scheme of Members' Allowances. A copy of the latest report of the Independent Remuneration Panel, as previously considered by Council at its meeting on 23rd March 2022, is attached at Appendix 2.

4. FINANCIAL AND RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1 There are no new financial implications arising from the content of this report, which is financially neutral. As such, the costs of the amendments proposed in the report are already contained within the existing budget for Members' Allowances.

Approved by: Jane West, Corporate Director of Resources and Section 151 Officer.

5. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 5.1 The proposed Members' Allowance Scheme complies with the relevant provisions of the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003, the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government Act 2000.
- 5.2 The 2002 Regulations specifically allow for a scheme to be amended at any time and for the entitlement to allowances to be backdated provided it is no earlier than the beginning of the scheme year i.e. 1 April. .
- 5.3 Regulation 19 of the 2003 Regulations provides that the Council must have regard to the recommendations of the IRP before making or amending a Scheme of Allowances for its members. Regulations 16 and 22 set out the detailed publicity requirements both in relation to any making or amendment of a Scheme and the IRP report.
- 5.4 Regulation 5(1) of the 2003 Regulations provide that the Scheme can make provision for an SRA to be paid to members who have such "special responsibilities in relation to the authority as are specified in the Scheme" and are within one or more of nine categories of responsibility identified in sub-paragraphs (a) - (i). This includes responsibilities such as acting as a Leader or Deputy Leader, Elected Mayor or Deputy Elected Mayor, acting as a member of an Executive, presiding at meetings of a committee or sub-committee and acting as a spokesman of a political group on a committee or sub-committee.

Approved by: Looqman Dessai, Deputy Monitoring Officer.

6. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPACT

6.1 There are no implications for Council staff arising from the report.

7. DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The application of the scheme of Members' allowances will involve the processing of personal data with regard to the payment of basic and special responsibility allowances and the application, processing and payments of travel, subsistence and dependants' carers' allowances.

7.2 All such processing of personal data will be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulations and the scheme itself.

7.3 All payments made under the scheme are published monthly and annually.

Approved by: Stephen Rowan, Head of Democratic Services and Scrutiny

CONTACT OFFICER: Stephen Rowan, Head of Democratic Services and Scrutiny

APPENDICES TO THIS REPORT

Appendix 1 Proposed Schedule of Allowances

Appendix 2 The Remuneration of Councillors in London 2022 - Report of the Independent Panel

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: There are no previously unpublished documents upon which this report is based.

**COUNCILLORS' BASIC AND SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY ALLOWANCES MAY
2022**

		(£)
Basic Allowance	All Members	11,692
	Civic Mayor's Allowance	15,900
	Deputy Civic Mayor's Allowance	7950.40
Special Responsibility Allowances – Paid in addition to Basic Allowance		
	Elected Mayor of the Council	81,894.36
	Statutory Deputy Mayor	30,352.80
	Cabinet Members (up to 7 positions)	27,503.20
	Deputy Cabinet Members (up to 5 positions)	5,491.36
	Chair - Scrutiny and Overview Committee	20,942
	Deputy Chair - Scrutiny and Overview Committee	8,585.60
	Conservative Group Secretary	8,268
	Conservative Chief Whip	12,121.80
	Chair – Licensing Committee	8,246.40
	Chair – Planning Committee	13,224.80
	Chair – Pension Committee	7,368
	Chair – General Purposes Committee	5,615.20
	Leader of the Labour Group	17,956
	Deputy Leader of the Labour Group (1 position)	7,520
	Shadow Cabinet Members (up to 7 positions)	5,615.20
	Labour Chief Whip	5,615.20
	Labour Group Secretary	5,505.60
	Vice Chair - Scrutiny and Overview Committee	8,585.60
Co-optee allowance	Chair - Audit and Governance Committee	8,000