

GENERAL PURPOSES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 16th February 2010

Present:

Councillor Tony Owen (Chairman)
Councillor Brian Toms (Vice-Chairman)
Councillors Nicholas Bennett JP, John Canvin,
Roger Charsley, John Getgood, Julian Grainger,
Mrs Carole Hubbard, Mrs Denise Reddin,
Charles Rideout, Tim Stevens JP, Mrs Brenda Thompson,
Michael Turner and Stephen Wells

Councillor George Taylor also attended

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION BY COUNCIL

1. MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME 2010/11 Report DR10023

The Regulations governing Members' allowances required that, before the beginning of each financial year, the Council should make a scheme of allowances for that year. Paragraph 16 of the existing scheme provided for annual indexation of allowances every year by the same percentage increase as the market movement change for (managerial) officers under the PE Inbucon scheme. This indexation had been agreed in respect of the current scheme for 2009/10. An independent remuneration review had recently been concluded but its report was not yet available.

In the light of the current economic circumstances, the Committee was of the opinion that the current allowances should be frozen for 2010/11. In this connection, a Member also felt that too many Councillors received Special Responsibility Allowances. Therefore (with a view to reducing costs), he moved a motion "that, in future, the annual indexation of allowances be linked to the National Joint Council percentage increase for non-managerial staff rather than to the Inbucon scheme". However, this motion was not seconded.

RECOMMENDED that

(1) the current allowances be frozen and no other changes be made to the existing scheme; and

(2) the Council on 29th March 2010 approves the Members' Allowances Scheme 2010/11 based on the current allowances for 2009/10 (attached Appendix 1).

2. AUDIT SUB-COMMITTEE: MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8TH DECEMBER 2009, EXCLUDING EXEMPT INFORMATION

The Minutes of the above meeting were received. Reference was made to the following Minute:

Minute 35 – Financial Regulations for Schools and Colleges Report DR09136

The Sub-Committee had been informed that the current Financial Regulations for Schools and Colleges had been revised and been issued to schools and colleges for comment in July 2009. Following consultation, feedback on the draft regulations had been considered and the final version of the Regulations would be circulated to schools and colleges for implementation following approval. Details of the amendments had been considered by the Sub-Committee. A copy of the Financial Regulations for Schools and Colleges had been placed in the Members' Room and could also be accessed on the Council's website.

Members considered the Sub-Committee's recommendation on this matter and

RECOMMENDED that the proposed revised Financial Regulations for Schools and Colleges (referred to in the report of the Director of Resources to the Audit Sub-Committee on 8th December 2009) be approved and adopted by the Council with effect from April 2010.

DECISION REQUIRED OF COUNCIL

Council to approve the above recommendations

London Borough of Bromley

Members Allowances Scheme

From 1st April 2010, in exercise of the powers conferred by the Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 (2003 No. 1021) [as amended by SI 2003 No. 1692], the London Borough of Bromley will operate the following Members Allowances Scheme.

1. This Scheme is known as the London Borough of Bromley Members Allowances Scheme and will operate from 1st April 2010 until amended.

2. In this Scheme:

“Councillor” means a member of the London Borough of Bromley who is an elected Member;

“Member” for the purposes of this Scheme shall mean elected Councillors;

“year” means the 12 months ending 31st March.

3. The Council in agreeing this Scheme also considered the recommendations of the Independent Panel commissioned by the Association of London Government on the remuneration of Councillors in London entitled “The Remuneration of Councillors in London 2010 Review” report published February 2010.

Basic Allowance

4. Subject to inflation increases (calculated in accordance with paragraph 16) a basic annual allowance of £10,872.02 shall be paid to each Councillor.

Special Responsibility Allowances

5. (1) An annual Special Responsibility Allowance will be paid to those Members who hold special responsibilities. The special responsibilities are specified in Schedule 1 (attached).

(2) During periods after an election when any position of special responsibility is unfilled, the relevant Special Responsibility Allowance shall be payable to the new holder of the position from the day after the previous holder ceases to be responsible.

- (3) The amount of each Special Responsibility Allowance is specified against that special responsibility in Schedule 1. The conditions set out in paragraphs 5(2), 5(4) and 14 apply.
- (4) Where a Member holds more than one position of special responsibility then only one Special Responsibility Allowance will be paid. Subject to sub-paragraph (5), Members may be paid quasi-judicial allowances in addition to a Special Responsibility Allowance.
- (5) All Members of the Plans Sub-Committees, Adoption Panel and Licensing Sub-Committee will be paid a quasi-judicial allowance at an annual rate of 2.5% of the Leader's Special Responsibility Allowance. For 2010/11 this will be £638.34 per annum, subject to inflation increases (calculated in accordance with paragraph 16). Where a Member has membership of only one Plans Sub-Committee, the allowance will be set at half that amount, (1.25%) £319.18.

Childcare and Dependent Carers Allowance

6. The Council has agreed that no allowance will be paid for childcare or dependent carers.

Co-optees Allowance

7. The Council has agreed that no allowance will be paid for co-optees.

Pensions

8. All Councillors under the age of 75 are entitled to apply for membership of the Local Government Pension Scheme. Both Basic Allowance and Special Responsibility Allowance, including quasi-judicial allowances, will be treated as amounts in respect of which pensions are payable.

Travel and Subsistence Allowance

9. The Basic Allowance covers all intra-Borough travel costs and subsistence. All other necessarily incurred travel and subsistence expenses for approved duties as set out in the Regulations (Regulation 8(a) to (h)) will be reimbursed under the same rules and entitlement as applies to staff. Travel by bicycle will also be paid at the same rates as applies to staff. Claims for reimbursement are to be made within one month of when the costs were incurred.

Ability to Decline An Allowance

10. A Member may, by writing to the Director of Legal, Democratic and Customer Services, decide not to accept any part of his entitlement to an allowance under this Scheme.

Withholding of Allowances

11. The Standards Committee may withhold all or part of any allowances due to a Member who has been suspended or partially suspended from his/her responsibilities or duties as a Member of the Authority. Any travelling or subsistence allowance payable to him/her for responsibilities or duties from which they are suspended or partially suspended may also be withheld.
12. Where the payment of an allowance has already been made in respect of a period in which a Member has been suspended or partially suspended, the Council may require the allowance that relates to that period of suspension to be repaid.

Members of more than one Authority

13. Where a Member is also a member of another authority, that Member may not receive allowances from more than one authority for the same duties.

Part-year Entitlements

14. If during the course of a year:
 - (a) there are any changes in the Basic and/or Special Responsibility Allowances,
 - (b) a new Member is elected,
 - (c) any Member ceases to be a Member,
 - (d) any Member accepts or relinquishes a post in respect of which a Special Responsibility Allowance is payable, or
 - (e) the Standards Committee resolves to withhold any allowances during the suspension of a Member,

the allowance payable in respect of the relevant periods shall be adjusted pro rata to the number of days.

Payments

15. Payments shall so far as is reasonably practicable normally be made for Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances in instalments of one-twelfth of the amount specified in this Scheme.

Inflation Increase

16. The allowances set out in this Scheme shall be increased annually by the same percentage increase as the market movement change for officers under

the PE Inbucon scheme, such increase to take effect from the start of the Municipal Year. This inflation index will apply until further notice unless the Scheme is revised after consideration of any new Independent Panel report. Where the only change to the Scheme in any year is that effected by such an annual adjustment in accordance with this index, the new uprated allowance rates will apply without further consideration by an Independent Panel.

Notification Fee to Information Commissioner

17. The Council shall reimburse, or pay on their behalf, the annual fee payable by all Councillors to the Information Commissioner.

Schedule 1

Special Responsibility Allowances for the year ending 31st March 2010

Posts of Special Responsibility Allowance	
	£
Leader of the Council	30,600.00
Portfolio Holders (x6)	20,400.00
Executive Assistants (x5)	3,573.22
Executive Members without Portfolio (x2)	3,573.22
Chairman of Portfolio PDS Committees (x6)	7,410.00
Chairman of Development Control Committee	9,179.61
Vice-Chairman of Development Control Committee	1,971.47
Chairman of Plans Sub-Committees (x4)	2,772.35
Chairman of General Purposes and Licensing Committee	9,179.61
Vice-Chairman of General Purposes and Licensing Committee	1,971.47
Chairman of Audit Sub-Committee	1,971.47
Chairman of Investment Sub-Committee	1,971.47
Leader of Main Opposition Party	7,577.78
Leader of Minority Opposition Party	3,673.53
Quasi-Judicial Allowances:-	
Members of two Plans Sub-Committees	669.99
Members of one Plans Sub-Committee	335.00
Members of Adoption Panel	669.99
Members of Fostering Panel	669.99
Members of Licensing Sub-Committee	669.99

Note: the Basic Allowance is currently set at £10,872.02