

MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME, 2006/07

A copy of the Scheme is no longer available but the following extracts from the minutes of meetings of the Council held on 21 March and 24 May 2006 together set out the details of the allowances paid that year:

29 March 2006

84 MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME 2006/07 (Agenda Item 9)

All Members present declared an interest under paragraph 8 of the Members' Code of Conduct set out in Part 5 of the Constitution in that they had a financial interest in this item.

Council had before them a report of the Chief Executive which recommended

1. That the Council agree the existing Scheme set out in the Constitution as the new scheme effective for the year commencing from 1 April 2006 and, if agreed, that the Council revoke the existing Scheme.
2. That the Council considers any amendments to the Scheme at its meeting in May.
3. That the Monitoring Officer be authorised to amend the date of the scheme to commence from 1 April 2006 in accordance with this recommendation.

The Labour Group tabled an amendment to recommendations 1 and 2 as follows –

Amend Recommendation 1 to read:

“That the Council agrees a Members' Allowances scheme with effect from 1st April 2006 on the same basis as currently save that there should be a reduction in the overall cost of members' allowances. To this end it agrees that there should be a reduction in the top Special Responsibility Allowances as follows

	Current	Proposed	Plus Basic Allowance
Leader of the Council	£39,150*	£25,000*	33,990*
Deputy Leader of the Council	£25,110	£18,000	26,990
Cabinet Member	£25,110	£15,000	23,990

*Note that in addition to the above-mentioned allowance the post-holder currently receives a further circa £11,500 allowance from the Thames Gateway Urban Development Corporation.

If agreed, the Council revoke the current scheme

Amend Recommendation 2 to read:

That the Council reviews all other Special Responsibility Allowances at its meeting in May to establish whether some responsibilities could be rationalised as well as ensuring that all SRAs, as well as those for leading administration posts, are treated equitably.

After debate the amendment was **LOST** by 38 votes to 12 (see division 3). The original recommendation was **AGREED** and it was –

RESOLVED

1. **That the Council agree the existing Scheme set out in the Constitution as the new scheme effective for the year commencing from 1 April 2006 and, if agreed, that the Council revoke the existing Scheme.**
2. **That the Council considers any amendments to the Scheme at its meeting in May.**
3. **That the Monitoring Officer be authorised to amend the date of the scheme to commence from 1 April 2006 in accordance with this recommendation.**

24 May 2006

18 MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES (Agenda Item 17)

Council noted on 29 March it had made a Members' Allowance Scheme for the year effective from 1 April 2006. The report to Council at that time noted that any amendments to the scheme would be considered at Annual Council and Council was now considered a report with the following recommendations which were treated as the proposals of the Administration –

1. That in the light of the report agreed by Council on 7th December 2005 the allowance for Area Committee Chairmen be reduced from £6,390 to £4,260 effective from 8 May 2006.
2. Following consultation with the Administration the allowance for a Leader of a Minority Opposition and a Deputy Leader of a Minority

Opposition shall only be payable to a Leader and Deputy Leader of a political group with six members and over.

3. The Monitoring Officer be authorised to amend the Members' Allowance scheme as agreed by Council.
4. Members agree that the percentage increase in basic allowances set out in paragraph 12 of the scheme being 2.95% be applied and paid with effect from 1 April 2006 as provided for in the scheme.

Amendment submitted by the Rainham & Wennington Independent Residents' Group (Agenda Item 17A)

Delete **recommendations 1, 2 and 4 and replace them with:**

1. That the Council ceases to pay Special Responsibility Allowances, and that Members be paid only the basic allowances provided for in the Members' Allowance Scheme, with no increase on the basic allowance over the next 4 years.
2. That the remaining recommendation be renumbered accordingly.

Amendment on behalf of the Administration (Agenda Item 17B)

Add new recommendation:

- (5) Reinstate in schedule 1 an SRA of £1,700 for Vice-Chairman of Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Following debate the amendment submitted by the Rainham & Wennington Independent Residents' Group was **LOST** by 37 votes to 4.

With the consent of the Council the amendment at Agenda Item 17B was withdrawn.

The original proposal was **AGREED** without going to a vote and it was

RESOLVED -

1. That in the light of the report agreed by Council on 7 December 2005 the allowance for Area Committee Chairmen be reduced from £6,390 to £4,260 effective from 8 May 2006.
2. That the allowance for a Leader of a Minority Opposition and a Deputy Leader of a Minority Opposition shall only be payable to a Leader and Deputy Leader of a political group with six members and over.

- 3. That the Monitoring Officer be authorised to amend the Members' Allowance scheme as agreed by Council.**
- 4. That the percentage increase in basic allowances set out in paragraph 12 of the scheme being 2.95% be applied and paid with effect from 1 April 2006 as provided for in the scheme.**