

# London Councils 2022 Remuneration of Members

Report of the Independent Panel



## Introduction

1. The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 ('the Regulations') authorise the establishment by the Association of London Government (now London Councils) of an Independent Remuneration Panel to make recommendations in respect of the members' allowances payable by London boroughs. Such a Panel was established and reported in 2001 and has since met six times. It will report again in 2022.
2. In 2004 the Panel, acting under Regulation 6 of the Regulations, made recommendations on the allowances to be paid to the elected officers of the Association of London Government. The Panel's recommendations were accepted with only slight amendment. The Panel met again in 2006 and made further recommendations about changes in the scheme. In 2010 and 2014 the Panel recommended further minor modifications, which were accepted. The Panel last reported in 2018 where it continued to recommend that the allowances should be updated annually in line with the local government staff pay settlement.
3. The Panel has been re-constituted and now comprises Mike Cooke (Chair), Sir Rodney Brooke CBE DL and Anne Watts CBE. We have considered whether any change in circumstances warrants a change to the remuneration scheme.

## Principles

4. The Panel continues to base its conclusions on the principles enunciated in 2004:
  - Those who contribute as London councillors to the work of London Councils should be remunerated along the same lines and in accordance with the same principles as members of London boroughs.
  - The level of special responsibility allowances should be such as will properly reflect the time commitment and expertise required to fulfil these roles.
  - London Councils remains an important representative body.
  - Financial reward is and should not be the motivation for service on London Councils, but equally its scheme of allowances must make it economically possible for the organisation to draw on a wide range of councillors across the political spectrum.
5. We have sought the views of the Leaders and Elected Mayors of London Councils and of the Chief Executive. We did not receive any comments indicating that the scheme is not fit for purpose and requires change.
6. We are mindful of the ongoing challenging economic climate which has most recently been exacerbated by the Coronavirus Pandemic and the severe constraints it places on the finances of local government. Because of this climate, until 2018 London Councils members did not accept the pay increases negotiated for local government staff. Consequently, the allowances paid since 2018 are below the level which they would have reached had the increases previously been accepted.
7. Our previous recommendations remain in place – no member should receive more than one allowance in respect of duties undertaken for London Councils and allowances should continue to be updated annually in line with the staff pay settlement.
8. Responding to the challenges raised by the Coronavirus Pandemic and the subsequent economic recovery for London has increased the workload on London Councils members over the preceding 18 months. As it

is difficult to determine whether these demands will be sustained, we propose to instigate a further, more detailed review of remuneration for those councillors who contribute to the work of London Councils in 12 months' time.

9. The local government staff pay settlement for 2021-22 is the subject of ongoing negotiations between employer and employee representatives.
10. The allowances paid in 2020-21 are set out in the appendix below. The indicative allowances for 2021-22, based on the current offer to staff, are also included in the appendix. Should the final pay settlement differ these figures will be updated and published. Additionally, the difference between the allowances paid in 2021-22 and the settlement figure will be backdated as necessary.

**Mike Cooke   Sir Rodney Brooke, CBE, DL   Anne Watts, CBE**

London, 6 January 2022

## Appendix

	Amount paid in 2020-21 <sup>1</sup>	Amount for 2021-22 <sup>2</sup>
<b>Executive</b>		
Chair	£22,446	£22,839
Deputy Chair, Vice-Chair and other Executive members with portfolios	£11,223	£11,419
<b>Party Group Policy Leads</b>	£2,807	£2,856
<b>Grants Committee</b>		
Chair	£11,223	£11,419
Grants Vice-Chair	£2,807	£2,856
<b>Transport and Environment Committee</b>		
Chair	£11,223	£11,419
Vice-Chair	£2,807	£2,856
<b>Greater London Employers' Forum</b>		
Chair	£11,223	£11,419
Vice-Chair	£2,807	£2,856
<b>Audit Committee</b>		
Chair	£5,612	£5,710
<b>Whip</b>	£5,612	£5,710

1. Column 1 represents the amount for each allowance payable in 2020-21 which includes the consolidated increases in each year since 2018 in-line with the award to local government officers.

2 Column 2 represents the indicative allowance payable in 2021-22 based on the 1.75% current offer to local government officers which has yet to be agreed.

