

London Councils 2023 Remuneration of Members

Report of the Independent Panel



REMUNERATION OF MEMBERS OF LONDON COUNCILS

Report of the Independent Panel on Members' Allowances 2023

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.
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. In 2018 and 2022, when the Panel last reported, it continued to recommend that the allowances should be updated annually in line with the local government staff pay settlement.
3. The Panel comprises Mike Cooke (Chair), Sir Rodney Brooke CBE DL and Anne Watts CBE. The Panel has 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. The Panel has sought views from representatives of each of the main political groups, and it did not receive any comments indicating that the scheme is not fit for purpose and requires change. Although the Coronavirus Pandemic had substantially increased the workload on London Councils members, feedback from members indicates that this has settled down in recent months.
6. The Panel is mindful of the ongoing challenging economic climate 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. The Panel's 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 the National Joint Council for Local Government Services.

8. The allowances paid in 2022-23 and 2023-24 are set out in the appendix below.

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

December 2023

Appendix

	Amount Paid in 2022-23¹	Amount for 2023-24²
Executive		
Chair	£ 23,762	£ 24,684
Deputy Chair, Vice-Chair and other Executive members with portfolios	£ 11,880	£ 12,341
Party Group Policy Leads	£ 2,971	£ 3,086
Grants Committee		
Chair	£ 11,880	£12,341
Grants Vice-Chair	£ 2,971	£ 3,086
Transport and Environment Committee		
Chair	£ 11,880	£12,341
Vice-Chair	£ 2,971	£ 3,086
Greater London Employers' Forum		
Chair	£ 11,880	£12,341
Vice-Chair	£ 2,971	£ 3,086
Audit Committee Chair	£ 5,941	£ 6,172
Whip	£ 5,941	£ 6,172

¹ Column 1 represents the amount for each allowance payable in 2022-23 which includes the consolidated increases in each year since 2018 in-line with the award to local government officers.

² Column 2 represents the allowance payable in 2023-24 based on the agreed 3.88% offer to local government officers.

