

COUNCIL – 11 JULY 2023

SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY ALLOWANCE FOR GROUP LEADER OF GREEN GROUP 2023/24 AND ANY AMENDMENT REQUIRED TO THE SCHEME FOR MEMBER ALLOWANCES 2023/2024

1. Summary

- 1.1 The report is being presented to Council following a meeting of the Independent Remuneration Panel on 20 June 2023 where the Panel were asked to consider whether to amend the Councils Scheme of Members Allowances for 2023/2024 by including a Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA) for the Group Leader of the Green Group for 2023/24 since they became a Group in May 2023.

2. Detail

2.1 *Special Responsibility Allowances 2023/24*

- 2.1.1 In November 2022 the Panel established the following principles for the Group Leader Allowance:

- Leader Allowance - 2 x basic (£10,920)
- Main opposition Leader Allowance - 0.75 x basic (£4,095)
- Other opposition Leader Allowance – 0.3 x basic (£1,640)

- 2.1.2 It is for the Panel to recommend to Council any SRA to be awarded and the amount. If an allowance is agreed by Council to be awarded, then the scheme of Member Allowances for 2023/24 would need to be amended accordingly.

- 2.1.3 When considering whether to provide the Green Group Leader with a Special Responsibility Allowance the Panel agreed that the number of members in the Group was not relevant as for a smaller group there were less people to share the burden. The Group Leader of the Green Group has only 2 people to consult.

- 2.2 The Panel will in the autumn review all the Members Allowances and present a report to Full Council in December 2023 for the Councils Scheme of Members Allowances for 2024/2025.

- 2.3 It should be noted that the Council are not able to withhold payment of the allowance. It is for the Member to decide how they wish to use that allowance.

3. Options and Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 To accord with the Local Authority (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 details on the recommendations from the Panel on the Members' Allowances the Council decision on the amendment to the Councils Scheme of Members Allowance 2023/24 must be published after the Council meeting.

- 3.2 Having considered all the information provided the Panel agreed to recommend to Council that the Green Group Leader receive an allowance of £1,640 in line with the other Opposition Group Leader allowance.

4. Policy/Budget Implications

4.1 As there is no budget provision, if Council agree the Panel recommendation the increase in SRA would need to be reported as a variance within Budget Monitoring.

5. Legal Implications

5.1 Regulation 5 of the Local Authority (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 provides for a SRA to be paid to a Group Leader

5.2 The Council must consider the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel in deciding on the proposed amendment to the Councils Scheme of Members Allowances 2023/24 and must give reasons if it departs from the recommendations.

5.3 The Councils Scheme of Members Allowances 2023/24 can be amended at any time (Regulation 10(3)).

5.4 If the scheme is amended the Council is required to publicise details of the new scheme in the local newspaper and on its website.

6. Equal Opportunities Implications

6.1 Relevance Test

Has a relevance test been completed for Equality Impact?	No – there is a requirement for the Council to consider the level of allowance when a new Political Group is established.
Did the relevance test conclude a full impact assessment was required?	Not applicable

6.2 Impact Assessment

No Impact Assessment required.

7. Staffing Implications

7.1 The Committee Team organise all the allowance payments.

8. Environmental, Community Safety, Public Health, Customer Services Centre and Communications and Website Implications.

8.1 None specific.

9. Risk and Health & Safety Implications

9.1 The Council has agreed its risk management strategy which can be found on the website at <http://www.threerivers.gov.uk>. In addition, the risks of the proposals in the report have also been assessed against the Council's duties under Health and Safety legislation relating to employees, visitors and persons affected by our operations. The risk management implications of this report are detailed below.

9.2 The subject of this report is covered by the Council's corporate plan. Any risks resulting from this report will be included in the risk register and, if necessary, managed within this plan.

Nature of Risk	Consequence	Suggested Control Measures	Response <i>(tolerate, treat terminate, transfer)</i>	Risk Rating <i>(combination of likelihood and impact)</i>
Not undertaking our democratic obligations to review and provide a Group Leader Allowance	Three Rivers DC does not fulfil its obligations	Panel review and make a recommendation to Council on the level of allowance	Treat	2

9.3 The above risks are scored using the matrix below. The Council has determined its aversion to risk and is prepared to tolerate risks where the combination of impact and likelihood scores 6 or less.

Very Likely ----- Likelihood ----- ▼ Remote	Low 4	High 8	Very High 12	Very High 16
	Low 3	Medium 6	High 9	Very High 12
	Low 2	Low 4	Medium 6	High 8
	Low 1	Low 2	Low 3	Low 4
	Impact			
	Low -----▶ Unacceptable			

Impact Score

Likelihood Score

4 (Catastrophic)

4 (Very Likely (≥80%))

3 (Critical)	3 (Likely (21-79%))
2 (Significant)	2 (Unlikely (6-20%))
1 (Marginal)	1 (Remote (≤5%))

9.4 In the officers' opinion none of the new risks above, were they to come about, would seriously prejudice the achievement of the Strategic Plan and are therefore operational risks. The effectiveness of the management of operational risks is reviewed by the Audit Committee annually.

Recommendations

10.1 To recommend to Council that the Green Group Leader receive an allowance of £1,640 in line with the other Opposition Group Leader allowance.

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Report checked by: Stephen Rix, Associate Director Legal and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer)

Background Papers: none

Appendix 1 – 2023/24 Member Allowances Scheme

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Leader of the Council - £10,920

Lead Members (x7) - £5,460

Chair of Planning - £5,460

Chair of Audit - £2,730

Chair of Regulatory Services and Licensing Committee - £2,730

Main Opposition Group Leader - £4,095

Other Opposition Group Leader (x1) £1,638