



City of Westminster

Follow on Agenda

Title: **Council Meeting**

Meeting Date: **Wednesday 3rd March, 2021**

Time: **7.00 pm**

Venue: **This is a virtual meeting**

Members: **All Councillors are hereby summoned to attend the Meeting for the transaction of the business set out.**

This will be a virtual meeting and members of the public and press are welcome to follow the meeting and listen to the discussion.

This meeting will be live streamed and recorded.

To access the recording after the meeting please revisit the link.

If you require any further information, please contact the Committee Officer, Reuben Segal, Head of Committee and Governance Services.

**Email: rsegal@westminster.gov.uk Tel: 07890 380137
Corporate Website: www.westminster.gov.uk**

6. **GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE: 23 FEBRUARY 2021:
FOLLOW ON ITEM**

(Pages 3 - 4)

Report of the Head of Committee and Governance Services

**Members' Allowance Scheme 2021-2022 and Creation of
Planning and Licensing Vice-Chair Positions**

[Appendix 1](#)

Report of the General Purposes Committee held on 23 February 2021

Present: Councillor Paul Swaddle (Chairman), Melvyn Caplan (Vice-Chairman), Gotz Mohindra and David Boothroyd

1. Members Allowances Scheme 2021-2022 and Creation of Vice-Chair Posts for Planning and Licensing Committees

- (a) The Scheme for the current municipal year was approved by the full Council on the 26 February 2020 upon recommendation from the General Purposes Committee.
- (b) The proposed scheme, effective from 1 April 2021 for 2021-2022, which we considered (see report attached as Appendix 1) and recommend has been prepared on the basis of the current scheme subject to the inclusion of new Special Responsibility Allowances for proposed Vice-Chairmen posts for the Planning and City Development Committee and Licensing Committee (see paragraph d below). As in previous year's regard has been given to the findings and recommendations detailed in the report of the London Council's Independent Panel on the Remuneration of Councillors which was last published in January 2018.
- (c) This committee has previously endorsed the principle of increasing members' allowances as a minimum in line with the increase awarded to all staff each year. As there is less certainty on the settlement of any pay increase to be awarded to staff in 2021, a specific increase has not been put forward. It is proposed that any increase to the Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances will be applied in line with any increase in salary for council staff agreed by the National Joint Council for Local Government Services and that this will be backdated from the 1 April 2021.
- (d) The report that we considered also proposed the establishment of Vice-Chairmen posts for the Planning and City Development Committee and the Licensing Committee for the reasons set out in paragraph 3.14 of the report.
- (e) In considering the proposals we have noted the views of both political parties of the council including those in relation to the creation of the vice-chairmen posts for both the Planning and Licensing Committees and the proposed related Special Responsibility Allowances.
- (f) During our debate about the creation of the vice chairmen posts for the planning and licensing committees further clarification was sought on the specific work that the post holders would undertake. On balance the majority of members considered that it is justifiable to create the proposed posts given the nature and function of the committees and Westminster's position of being one of the largest planning and licensing authorities in England.

We recommend:

That Full Council:

1. Approve the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2021-2022 as set out in Appendix A to the report we considered from 1 April 2021 subject to the inclusion of an uplift for both basic and special responsibility allowances in line with the approach outlined in paragraph 3.6 below.
2. Establish the positions of Planning and City Development Vice-Chair and Licensing Committee Vice-Chair with immediate effect.

Paul Swaddle, Chairman

Background Papers

Appendix 1 - Report to General Purposes Committee (23.2.21)