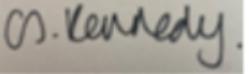


LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN	WARDS: All
REPORT TITLE Members' Allowances Scheme 2026/27	
REPORT OF Director of Participation, Partnerships and Communication	
FOR SUBMISSION TO Audit and Corporate Governance Committee Council	DATE 5 th February 2026 2 nd March 2026
<p>SUMMARY OF REPORT</p> <p>The report invites the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee to recommend to Council the Members' Allowances Scheme for the 2026/27 financial year.</p>	
<p>LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 – ACCESS TO INFORMATION</p> <p>No documents were used in this report that are required to be listed.</p>	
<p>CONTACT OFFICER</p> <p>Caroline Kennedy Interim Director of Participation, Partnerships and Communication 5 Pancras Square London, N1C 4AG Telephone: 020 7974 6020 Email: caroline.kennedy@camden.gov.uk</p>	
<p>RECOMMENDATIONS</p> <p>Audit and Corporate Governance Committee is asked to recommend the Council to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Adopt the Members' Allowances Scheme as set out in Appendix A for the 2026/27 financial year. ii) Authorise the Director of Participation, Partnerships and Communication to take the necessary steps in the operation of the scheme to update and publicise the scheme. iii) Authorise the Borough Solicitor to take the necessary steps to update the constitution regarding the updated scheme. <p>Council is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Agree the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2026/27 as recommended by the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee. ii) Authorise the Director of Participation, Partnerships and Communication to take the necessary steps in the operation of the scheme to update and publicise the scheme. 	

iii) Authorise the Borough Solicitor to take the necessary steps to update the constitution regarding the updated scheme.

Signed: 

Caroline Kennedy, Interim Director of Participation, Partnerships and Communications

Date: 26 January 2026

1. Introduction

- 1.1. Before 1 April each year, local authorities are required under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 to agree a scheme for the payment of allowances to councillors for the forthcoming financial year. This is known as the Members' Allowances Scheme ("the Scheme").
- 1.2. The Scheme must be approved by Council, with the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee – as the non-executive committee with the remit for matters relating to Members' remuneration – making recommendations to Council.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Members' Allowances Scheme for 2025-26 was approved by Council on 3rd March 2025. Last year the Council decided to uplift the basic allowance in line with the National Pay Award for officers by an additional 2.5% taking it from £15,692 to £16,084.30 from 1 April 2025. All other allowances except the Independent Persons' Allowance were increased by 2.5%. The Independent Person' allowance was raised by £45 from £1,130 to £1,175.

3. Independent Panel on the Remuneration of Councillors in London

- 3.1 All local authorities must have regard to an independent remuneration panel's recommendation when adopting or amending their Scheme. Camden uses the Independent Panel on the Remuneration of Councillors in London ("the IRP") established by London Councils. The IRP's most recent report which was issued in 2023 is attached in **Appendix B**.
- 3.2 Camden's member allowances have consistently remained below the IRP's recommendations. It is the Council's long-term aim for all allowances levels to be in line with the IRP recommendations.
- 3.3 The IRP also recommends that allowances be uplifted each year in line with the cost of living increase in pay for officers. This annual inflationary increase has historically been used to ensure that allowances reflect the inflationary pressures and do not start falling further behind IRP recommended allowances levels.
- 3.4 The IRP's most recent report recognises the crucial role that elected members play in managing multimillion-pound budgets. Further, it is noted that the health and well-being of residents and communities are at the heart of the work of London boroughs, while also endeavouring to give children the best start in life.
- 3.5 Councillors are deemed integral to the effectiveness of the local democratic process. The report feels that the role of members is becoming increasingly complex given the size and range of national and international changes varying from, climate change, the global energy crisis and housing shortages.

3.6 The report recognises the ongoing challenging economic climate as a rationale for advocating annual increments in line with the annual national pay award for local government.

3.7 The IRP recommended a basic allowance of £15,960 in their 2023 report. Table A details their recommendations for special responsibility allowances.

Band 1	Vice chair of regulatory or scrutiny committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair of sub-committee • Leader of second or smaller opposition group • First opposition group whip • Chairs, vice chairs, area committees and forums • Cabinet assistant 	£3,105 - £9,314
Band 2	Lead member in scrutiny arrangements, such as chair of a scrutiny panel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representative on key outside body • Chair of major regulatory committee e.g. planning • Chair of council business (civic mayor) • Leader of principal opposition group • Majority party chief whip (in respect of council business). 	£15,523 - £31,046
Band 3	Cabinet member <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board • Chair of the main overview or scrutiny committee • Deputy leader of the council 	£37,255 - £46,569
Band 4	Leader of the Council	£62, 092
Band 5	Elected Mayor	£93,575

Table A The IRP recommended special responsibility allowances

4.0 The National Pay Award

4.1 The national pay settlement, for April 2026 was agreed in November at 3.2% across the board. This means that all officers pay points have been increased

by 3.2%. It is therefore recommended that the basic Member allowance be increased by 3.2% in line with the officer pay award except the Independent Persons allowance.

4.2 The basic allowance will therefore rise from £16,038 to £16,551.27 from 1 April 2026. All other allowances will be uplifted by 3.2% as depicted by the table below.

Band	Post	With 3.2% uplift
1	Leader of the Council	£45,120.46
2	Cabinet Members (x 9)	£28,200.95
3	Leader of the opposition	£18,358.12
	Mayor	£18,358.12
4	Chief Whip of the administration group	£12,238.75
	Chair of Planning Committee	£12,238.75
5	Chairs of Scrutiny Committees (x 5)	£10,149.60
	Chair of Pension Committee	£10,149.60
	Chair of Licensing Committee	£10,149.60
	Chair of Audit and Corporate Governance Committee	£10,149.60
6	Member of the Adoption, Fostering and Permanence Panel	£10,149.60
	Leader of the second opposition group	£6,204.00
	Deputy Leader of the largest opposition group	£6,204.00
	Whip of the largest opposition group	£6,204.00
	Deputy Whip of the administration group	£6,204.00
7	Deputy Mayor	£4,511.52
	Cabinet Advisers (x4)	£2,253.11

Table B Special Responsibility Allowances 2026-27

4.3 It is proposed that the Independent Persons allowance increase by 10% in recognition of the responsibility and skill required to fulfil the role. The allowance will therefore increase from £1,175 to £1,292.50.

5.0 Legal Comments

5.1 The Borough Solicitor has been consulted and confirms he will take the necessary steps as set out in the report once the Council has taken the decision. The Borough Solicitor also notes the reference in the report to the relevant statutory framework and that the 2023 report and recommendations of the Independent Panel on the Remuneration of Councillors in London have been taken into consideration in recommending the rates.

6.0 Finance Comments

6.1 The cost of the recommended uplift in Members allowance will be an overall cost of £49,000 in 2026/27. This includes the cost of allowances and the cost of employers national insurance payments. This cost will be met from the Council's General Fund.

7.0 Environment Comments

7.1 This proposal has no environmental impacts.

8.0 Appendices

Appendix A: 2026-27 Members' Allowances Scheme

Appendix B: The Remuneration of Councillors in London 2023. Report of the Independent Panel.

REPORT ENDS