

30th June 2023

WLGA MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME & SUPPORT FOR POLITICAL GROUPS

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is for the WLGA Council to note the Members' Allowances Scheme for WLGA Senior Office Holders and the provision of support to WLGA political groups.

Background

2. The WLGA provides a scheme of Members' Allowances Scheme for WLGA Senior Office Holders, in line with the WLGA Constitution:

“25.1 The Association may provide a scheme for the payment of allowances and expenses to members appointed to agreed Association roles, in recognition of duties carried out on behalf of the Association (Scheme of Allowances).

The WLGA Executive Board or Council may establish an Independent Panel to review the Scheme of Allowances and to make recommendations for decision by the Executive Board or Council. An independent review of the Scheme should be carried out at least every 4 years. The membership of the Panel shall comprise of a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 5 members. The Chair of the Panel must be independent of the Association and may not be a serving democratically elected local representative. The remaining Panel members may be serving democratically elected local representatives, but must not hold an Association role whilst a member of the Panel.”

3. The WLGA Members' Allowances Scheme is applied on an annual basis, effective from the date of each Annual General Meeting.
4. The Scheme is voluntary, and members can choose whether to receive their allowance. In line with local authorities' own practices the WLGA Scheme is made publicly available via the WLGA's website.
5. Members will note that while the WLGA Members' Allowances Scheme is not within the remit of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales it has been agreed that annual changes to the WLGA Members' Allowances Scheme should be linked to the Panel's determinations for any annual changes for councillors' salaries in Wales.

Independent Review of Members' Allowances

6. The WLGA Members Allowances Scheme had not been reviewed since 2005-06 but the role of WLGA senior leaders and spokespersons has however changed significantly in recent years, particularly in terms of time commitments and responsibility.
7. The WLGA Council therefore agreed an independent review of the WLGA Members' Allowances Scheme should be carried out this electoral term to reflect the changing roles and demands placed on councillors. An Independent Panel was convened last Autumn, in line with the WLGA Constitution, to review and advise WLGA Council members on the WLGA Members Allowances scheme.
8. The panel's report was presented to the WLGA Council at the meeting in March and it was agreed the WLGA Members' Allowances Scheme for 2023-24 will be:

Role	2023-24
Leader	£12,500
Deputy Leader	£9,375
Presiding Officer	£9,375
Deputy Presiding Officer (Majority Group)	£3,125
Group Leader Independent	£5,000
Group Leader Plaid Cymru	£5,000
Education Spokesperson	£5,000
Finance Spokesperson	£5,000
Social Services Spokesperson	£5,000
Total	£59,375

9. The above table is based on information received in advance of the AGM that there will be 3 Political Groups within the Association (Labour, Plaid Cymru and Independent).

Other Member Allowances

10. Some WLGA nominated positions on LGA Boards may be entitled to receive remuneration separately through the LGA's Members' Allowances Scheme¹. The LGA's Members Allowances Scheme was updated in January 2023 and allowances are as follows:
 - LGA Executive Advisory Board (WLGA Representative) £3,090
 - Employers' Side Bodies (WLGA Member) £348 Day Rate
11. Furthermore, Welsh local authority members may be appointed to a range of LGA Boards. These members are appointed as representatives of the LGA Political

¹ [LGA Scheme of Members' Allowances \(January 2023\)](#)

Groups and not on behalf of the WLGA. Members appointed to LGA Boards will be entitled to receive allowances ranging from £3,090 (member), £ 9,268 (vice chair) to £ 18,537 (chair).

Support for Political Groups

12. Section 24 of the Constitution confirms that support may be provided for political groups

“24.1 Political groups on the Council recognised by the Association under Article 8 for the purposes of representation on Committees may seek support to enable them to fulfil their role.

24.2 Political groups recognised by the Association shall be entitled to reasonable support from the Association to enable them to play their part in influencing parties on behalf of Member Councils.”

13. WLGA Group leaders have previously discussed and agreed the need to provide adequate support to WLGA Groups for the 2022-27 term, in the furtherance of WLGA business and policy development, and in line with the support provided to political groups within the LGA.

14. The WLGA has budgeted for the equivalent of 1 FTE officer (SCP 30) from 2022-23, to be shared on a proportionate basis between the WLGA Groups. The Labour Group receive the equivalent of 3 days per week support, and the Plaid Cymru and Independent Groups 1 day per week each. Group Leaders will discuss their requirements for ongoing political support.

Recommendations

15. The WLGA Council is invited to:

15.1 Note the WLGA Members’ Allowances Scheme for 2023-24; and

15.2 Note the provision of Support for Political Groups (paragraphs 12-14).

Author: Dr Chris Llewelyn,
Chief Executive

E-mail: chris.llewelyn@wlga.gov.uk