

Council Meeting

18 07 24 - 7.30 pm

Supplementary Summons

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d) Developer Contributory Advisory Group - recommendation from Corporate Management Committee

The report associated with this item was circulated to all members with the [agenda for the 11 July 2024 Corporate Management Committee](#).

The Committee supported the revisions that had been made to the governance arrangements, in particular incorporating political proportionality and expressly highlighting that ward member would be welcome and involved in meetings discussing the neighbourhood portion of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) monies that covered their ward area.

Members heard that the role of the advisory group was to ensure early member involvement in infrastructure spending decisions and consider proposals, prior to recommendations being made to the Corporate Management Committee (CMC). It was noted that it would be impractical for the CMC consider all proposals due to the high quantity of work required. The Group would also be able to hold meetings flexibly (online or hybrid), enabling easier member involvement. It was added that when matters came before the CMC, all members would be able to make representations in accordance with the Council's Constitutional provisions.

It was confirmed that all members would be able to review the papers that were made available to the Group for all meetings, and that elected members could attend strategic Group meetings however it would be up to the membership of the group to decide what strategic items would be put forward to CMC. The need to ensure that consideration of uses for the strategic element of CIL funds remained strategic was emphasised.

It was **resolved** that the Council be asked to:

- 1) Endorse the creation of a Developer Contributions Advisory Group, in accordance with the adopted Developer Contributions Governance Arrangements and as set out in the Corporate Management Committee report of January 2023.
- 2) Endorse the terms of reference for the group attached at Appendix 1 of the officer's report.
- 3) Authorise the Corporate Head of Law and Governance to make any

necessary amendments to the Council's Constitution to give effect to the Developer Contributions Advisory Group and the terms of reference.

e) Review of Certain Special Responsibility Allowances Provided Under the Members' Allowances Scheme - recommendation from Corporate Management Committee

The report associated with this item was circulated to all members with the [agenda for the 11 July 2024 Corporate Management Committee](#).

The Committee noted that this was not an opportunity to debate the previous decision of the Council to appoint four Co-Leaders and there was general agreement over the need to review the special responsibility allowance (SRA) paid to the Co-Leaders, due to the existing Members' Allowances Scheme (MAS) not being able to cater for this arrangement. Consequently, recommendations i), ii), iii) and vi) of the officer's report were accepted.

There was extensive debate about the proposed increased allowances to be paid to the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Corporate Management Committee (CMC), as referenced in recommendations iv) and v) of the officer's report.

It was stated by some councillors that the increased allowances lacked evidence to support the assertion that both postholders were going to experience a commensurate increase in workloads, particularly because many of the workstreams associated with the Non-Statutory Best Value Notice (NSBVN) were happening long before it had been received. This view was challenged, with the counterargument of there being a number of NSBVN formalities now requiring the attention of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the CMC in particular. It was cited that the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) in 2021/22 considered the matter of workloads for members with special responsibilities, and that the situation had not changed significantly since then. It was therefore suggested that engagement with the IRP, beyond that of an e-mail, was required.

It was stated by other members that the Chair and Vice-Chair had committed to spending significant amounts of time fulfilling their roles: the Chair, as the member finance lead for the Council, and the Vice Chair in her role of engaging with neighbouring authorities and other partners. It was therefore contested that it was fair to recognise the loss of income for these individuals, and/or the additional cost associated with carrying out these roles and that the IRP had been consulted in full, with their comments noted. Furthermore, it was believed that it was important to have individuals in place, who had the capacity to drive forward important workstreams and support officers during a challenging period for the Council. A counterargument was put forward, suggesting that undertaking the role of a councillor and any associated special responsibilities were duties that had been chosen by the individuals concerned and that it was not appropriate for the Council to finance these choices. It was stated however this was not only not a practical position to take, given the additional time pressures but would also result in those councillors not being able to carry out the duties and responsibilities now expected of them given the NSBVN.

The financial elements of the report were challenged, with regard to the Council's budgetary challenges. It was asserted that the actual expenditure on the MAS would be higher than would have been the case if the SRAs for the Chair and Vice-Chair of the CMC had remained the same. Furthermore, it was mentioned that the proportion of the MAS budget spent on leadership had increased. In response, it was stated that the changes to the MAS were within the allocated budget and that they were affordable, with the actual predicted spend on MAS remaining below that already budgeted for the financial year before May. It was also stated that greater time being spent on decision making, and setting of financial and corporate directions for CMC's consideration by the Chair and Vice-Chair of CMC, would improve outcomes for the Council and its residents.

A commitment to review the allowances paid to the Chair and Vice-Chair of the CMC, when the NSBVN was removed and the financial workload required on the Chair and Vice-Chair of the CMC had eased, was made.

It was **resolved** that the Council be asked to agree the following resolutions:

- 1) That the Runnymede Members' Allowances Scheme be amended to provide that in the event of the appointment of more than one elected member to be Leader of the Council i.e. the appointment of co-leaders, the elected members so appointed shall receive a Special Responsibility Allowance.
- 2) The amount of the Special Responsibility Allowance payable to each elected member appointed as a Co-Leader shall be, for the year 2024/25, £4,249. This sum to be uplifted in line with the formula contained in the Members' Allowance Scheme.
- 3) For the year 2024/25, the sums allocated in the Runnymede Members' Allowances Scheme for the payment of a Special Responsibility Allowance for the position of Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council, shall be used to fund the payment of a Special Responsibility Allowance to elected members appointed as Co-Leaders.
- 4) The Special Responsibility Allowance payable for the post of Chair of the Corporate Management Committee shall be increased to the sum of £11,330 for the year 2024/25. This sum to be uplifted in line with the formula contained in the Members' Allowance Scheme.
- 5) The Special Responsibility Allowance for the post of Vice-Chair of the Corporate Management Committee shall be increased to the sum of £5,665 for the year 2024/25. This sum to be uplifted in line with the formula contained in the Members' Allowance Scheme.
- 6) That the Runnymede Members Allowances Scheme be amended pursuant to the power granted by Regulation 10(6) Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 to provide where an amendment is to be made which affects an allowance payable for the year in which the amendment is made, the scheme will provide for the entitlement to such allowance as amended to apply with effect from the beginning of the year in which the amendment is made.

Resolutions 4 and 5 above were the subject of a named vote, with the voting noted as follows:

In favour (7)

Councillors R King, Gillham, Berardi, Milstead, Ringham, D Whyte and S Whyte.

Against (5)

Councillors MD Cressey, Gracey, Howorth, Mavi and Snow.

Abstentions (0)