

## CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

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REPORT OF: Democratic Services Manager

TO: Civic Affairs Committee

28/6/2017

WARDS: None directly affected

### **THE MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR ALLOWANCES**

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#### **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The Allowances for the Mayor and Deputy Mayor have not been reviewed since 2004. In 2015/16 a review of the officer support to the Mayor was undertaken and resources were taken out of the Civic budget and it is right to review the allowances now as well. This report explains what the allowances are for and asks whether there should be any changes to the two allowances.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 To determine whether the Mayor and Deputy Mayor Allowance paid direct to the Mayor/Deputy Mayor should be increased and if so, to agree by how much.
- 2.2 To retain the proportional split between the allowance paid direct to the Mayor and the proportion retained by the Civic Office to cover civic hospitality.
- 2.3 To update both parts of the allowance by inflation agreed within the Council's budget process and to review these allowances at least every four years.

#### **3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The allowances available to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor is a matter of local choice and do not fall within the remit of the Independent Remuneration Panel which looks at councillor allowances (basic and special responsibility) as it not required by law. The last time councillors reviewed the Mayor's allowances was at Civic Affairs

Committee in January 2004. At that time the Committee agreed to split the total allowance into two parts-one part directly paid to the Mayor (£2,500) and one part held by officers to pay for civic hospitality (£5,100). For 2016/17 the respective figures were £4,470 (direct to the Mayor and this is taxable) and £4,980 for civic hospitality.

3.2 The allowance paid direct to the Mayor is intended to be used on things connected with Mayoral duties, such as:

- Money spent at any event must be paid from the allowance (charity donations at events, raffles)
- Clothing/grooming costs which can be considerable eg. on clothing the Mayoral Chain makes holes in jackets/tops
- Personal car and taxi tips– mileage to and from the Guildhall and to mayoral engagements when the official car is not being used (the Mayor is using taxis more as there has been a reduction in hours provided by the Sergeant at Mace)

Although not specified in Mayoral duties above, it should be noted that the Mayor performs a high profile (and challenging) task of chairing the Council. Under the scheme for special responsibilities other chair roles are recognised.

3.3 The proportion of the allowance retained by officers available for the Mayor's hospitality covers for example events in the Mayor's Parlour, Remembrance Sunday (after the services over 100 people attend the Small Hall) and other ceremonial/church/civic events, Christmas cards, visitor gifts, personal guests to the outgoing Mayor's dinner. Officers do not recommended a raise in this proportion of the allowance. There is also a separate budget set aside for the civic reception held at the Guildhall in November and the Reach Fair held in May (in total £8,300).

### **The Deputy Mayor**

3.4 The Deputy Mayor receives an allowance of £1,580 (taxable) for the year to cover similar expenditure that the Mayor would encounter in their role.

### **Other Councillor Allowances**

3.5 There had been an agreed increase of 25.6% to the councillor basic allowance in July 2016 following a review by the Independent Remuneration Panel.

#### **4. Comparison with other councils**

- 4.1 Officers sought factual information from a few similar councils to Cambridge which have Mayors with long history and associated ceremony. Listed is the allowance paid direct to the Mayor and the average number of engagements.

Local authority	Mayor allowance paid direct	Average number of engagements	Other information
Cambridge	£4,470	420	
York	£4,960	400	Also get an allowance for chairing the council (£2,600)
Oxford	£4,343	In excess of 300	
King's Lynn	£5,800	350	
Norwich	£6,600	300	

#### **5. CONSULTATIONS**

The Mayor for 2016/17, Cllr Benstead, the Executive Councillor for Strategy and Transformation and the Chief Executive have been consulted on this report.

#### **6. OPTIONS**

The committee can request officers to do further work to either reduce or increase the allowances available.

#### **7. IMPLICATIONS**

##### **(a) Financial Implications**

Any increase in allowance would need to be funded either by a budget bid or within budget with efficiencies being made elsewhere in the civic and twinning budget. The civic and twinning budget delivered a £24,000 per annum saving in 2017/18 and on-going through staffing changes.

- (b) Staffing Implications**
- (c) Equal Opportunities Implications**
- (d) Environmental Implications**
- (e) Procurement**

- (f) **Consultation and communication**
- (g) **Community Safety**

(b)-(g) no implications

**BACKGROUND PAPERS:** The following are the background papers that were used in the preparation of this report: None.

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