



City of Westminster

Cabinet Member Report

Decision Maker:	Cabinet Member for Finance and Council Reform
Date:	26 July 2023
Classification:	General Release
Title:	Response to petition: “Petition calling on Councillors to donate 45% pay rise to charity”
Wards Affected:	All wards
Policy Context:	Response to a Councillor Presented Petition at Full Council
Key Decision:	No
Financial Summary:	There are no financial implications associated with this report
Report of:	Parveen Akhtar, Director of Law and Governance

1. Executive Summary

The Petition had 730 signatures and was presented at the Full Council meeting on 20 June 2023 by Cllr Paul Swaddle.

2. Recommendations

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Council Reform to:

- acknowledge the Petition
- advise that it is for Members to individually decide how to use their Allowance

3. Reasons for Decision

No decision will be taken in relation to this petition. It is not in the remit of the Cabinet Member to decide how Members use the Allowance they have been awarded.

4. Background, including Policy Context

The Westminster City Council Petition Scheme provides “In all cases where a petition has been presented by a councillor to an ordinary council meeting the relevant Chief Officer shall, within 28 days of the date of the meeting, (sooner if possible) report to the relevant Cabinet Member or Committee setting out proposals for the formal response to the petition and also advise the petition organiser”.

The General Purposes Committee, on 22 February 2023, agreed to a 4.04% uplift in the basic allowance for Members and a targeted approach to increasing SRAs, focusing on those roles which were under most pressure or had unique characteristics in Westminster.

Full Council on 8 March 2023 approved the recommendations from the General Purposes Committee of 22 February 2023.

It is noted that individual Members decide on the use of their Allowance.

5. Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

6. Legal Implications

The Westminster City Council Petition Scheme provides “In all cases where a petition has been presented by a councillor to an ordinary council meeting the relevant Chief Officer shall, within 28 days of the date of the meeting, (sooner if possible) report to the relevant Cabinet Member or Committee setting out

proposals for the formal response to the petition and also advise the petition organiser”.

7. Carbon Impact

There is no carbon impact associated with this report.

8. Equalities Implications

There are no equalities implications association with this report.

9. Consultation

It was not necessary to consult on this report.

**If you have any queries about this Report or wish to inspect any
of the Background Papers, please contact:**

Parveen Akhtar, Director of Law and Governance

For completion by the **Cabinet Member for Finance and Council Reform**

Declaration of Interest

I have no interest to declare in respect of this report

Signed:  Date: 26 July 2023
NAME: **Cllr David Boothroyd**

State nature of interest if any:

(N.B: If you have an interest, you should seek advice as to whether it is appropriate to make a decision in relation to this matter)

For the reasons set out above, I agree the recommendation(s) in the report entitled **Response to petition: “Petition calling on Councillors to donate 45% pay rise to charity”** and reject any alternative options which are referred to but not recommended.

Signed: 

Cabinet Member for Finance and Council Reform

Date: 26 July 2023

If you have any additional comment which you would want actioned in connection with your decision you should discuss this with the report author and then set out your comment below before the report and this pro-forma is returned to the Secretariat for processing.

Additional comment:

If you do not wish to approve the recommendations, or wish to make an alternative decision, it is important that you consult the report author, the Director of Law, City Treasurer and, if there are resources implications, the Director of People Services (or their representatives) so that (1) you can be made aware of any further relevant considerations that you should take into account before making the decision and (2) your reasons for the decision can be properly identified and recorded, as required by law.

Note to Cabinet Member: Your decision will now be published and copied to the Members of the relevant Policy & Scrutiny Committee. If the decision falls within the criteria for call-in, it will not be implemented until five working days have elapsed from publication to allow the Policy and Scrutiny Committee to decide whether it wishes to call the matter in.