

SOUTHWARK COUNCIL

COUNCIL ASSEMBLY

(ORDINARY MEETING)

WEDNESDAY 13 JULY 2022

6.1: RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON REPORT

1. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR GRAHAM NEALE

Given the financial pressures faced by the people living and paying council tax here in Southwark, and the economic prospects faced by our residents, it is time to send a clear message, that we, as elected councillors are determined to get the most from every council tax pound they contribute. Local residents have asked me to ask: Will Southwark's administration please end the loss of office payments for cabinet members in the Members Allowances Scheme? If the administration cannot bear to lose these payments, unique to this borough, are there any plans to suspend them, in the light of the cost of living emergency?

RESPONSE

Today's Council Assembly is themed around the cost of living crisis and will consider Labour's recently launched 10-point plan to support residents through these incredibly difficult times, including through direct financial support, more opportunities to learn and work and more affordable council homes, amongst other concrete measures. This administration is committed to doing all we can to support residents.

To ensure openness and transparency, the council's rules on payments to councillors, including eligibility for loss of office payments, are detailed in the Member Allowance Scheme, which is agreed annually by Council Assembly and published on the Council website. All councillors should ensure any allowance claims they make are in line with the current published policy.