

SOUTHWARK COUNCIL

COUNCIL ASSEMBLY

(ORDINARY MEETING)

WEDNESDAY 22 MARCH 2023

QUESTIONS ON REPORTS:

6.1 - Adjustment of member allowances in line with the national local government officer pay settlement 2022-23 and Member Allowances Scheme 2023-2024

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

Given the reputational damage to politics in the borough caused by the indulgence of Southwark's 'Golden Goodbyes', would the leader join with us in calling for those former Labour Cabinet members who received 'loss of office payments' to repay the amounts to the council, or at least donate similar amounts to local charities?

RESPONSE

As part of the annual review of councillors allowances that we are required to undertake, this year cabinet members will no longer be eligible for loss of office payments which will cease on 1 April 2023.

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:

<http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/documents/s94015/Members%20Allowances%20Scheme>

All claims under the loss of office scheme are on the public record and we will not comment on individual instances.