

Renunciation of Councillor Allowance**Report by John Blair, Director, Resources****1 Purpose of Report**

This report is to seek Council governance to approve the decision of Councillor Owen Thompson to forego his Members' Allowance following election to the UK Parliament.

2 Background

Following his election to the UK Parliament on Friday 8 May 2015 Councillor Owen Thompson approached the Director Resources and requested that he cease claiming Members' Allowances.

Accordingly, the Director Resources suspended payments with effect from 8 May 2015. Furthermore, Councillor Thompson has requested that his Member Allowances be used for the benefit of the Midlothian West Ward.

The Head of Finance and Integrated Service Support as the Council's Chief Finance Officer advises that in terms of The "Councillors' Remuneration: Remuneration, Allowances and Expenses - Guidance - (Revised) April 2010" there is provision for any Councillor to renounce receipt of their salary.

Specifically the Guidance states that "any councillor, regardless of level of payment, will be able to renounce receipt of all or part of his or her salary if he or she wishes to do so".

3 Resource Implications

The decision of Councillor Owen Thompson to renounce his allowance results in an underspend for the members staffing budget as follows:-

	08 May 15 to 31 May 15	Monthly thereafter
Basic Allowance	£ 1,162	£ 1,501
Leaders Allowance	£ 823	£ 1,063
Total Allowance	£ 1,985	£ 2,564

If Council approves the allowance to be used for the benefit of the Midlothian West Ward, then the underspend will be vired to an appropriate revenue budget in liaison with the Head of Finance and Integrated Service Support.

The Director Resources will make the necessary arrangements in conjunction with the Head of Finance and Integrated Service Support to ensure that the allowance is utilised for the benefit of the Midlothian West Ward.

3.2 Risk

The principle risk associated with the proposal will be negated through the expenditure being monitored by the Head of Finance and Integrated Service Support and application of the Council's Policy on following the Public Pound.

Strategy

This proposal complements the Council's corporate objective of involving communities.

Consultation

Councillor Owen Thompson advises he has consulted other Councillors regarding this proposal.

Equalities

There are no equalities issues arising from this report therefore an equalities impact assessment is not required.

Sustainability

There are no sustainability issues arising as a consequence of this report.

3.4 IT Issues

There are no IT issues arising from this report.

4 Recommendations

The Council is requested to approve the utilisation of Councillor Owen Thompson's members' allowance for the benefit of the Midlothian West Ward as detailed in this report.

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