

PRESS RELEASE - ENFIELD COUNCIL LABOUR GROUP

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ENFIELD COUNCIL EXPANDS SCRUTINY AND TRANSPARENCY

For the tenth year in a row Labour Councillors have refused automatic pay increases to their Councillor allowances. Enfield Council has one of the lowest councillor allowances in London.

This has saved the Council more than £120,000.

Following a Local Government Association Review, a proposal to enhance the Committee and Scrutiny Structure has been agreed. The changes will enable Councillors to dedicate more time and efforts to new and emerging priority areas, including Environment and Climate Change, Young People, Equalities and Economic Development, as well as vulnerable children as part of the work of the Fostering Panel.

The Environment and Climate Change Forum will include membership from local community environment groups.

The changes brought about are in response to calls to bolster and improve scrutiny and extra accountability and transparency in additional formal Committees of the Council. Enfield Council believes that the level of responsibility, work and scrutiny of these new key priorities are as important as the existing roles that have an Special Responsibility Allowance attached.

Councillors can only claim one SRA and no Councillor has ever been forced to take either their basic allowance or their Special Responsibility Allowance that they are entitled to. It is down to individual Councillors to make a judgement on their own personal circumstances about whether they need to draw down their allowance.

Notes to editor

The new scrutiny structure will have dedicated panels focusing on the following areas: Crime scrutiny; Health and Adult Social Care; Environment & Climate Action; Housing; Finance and Performance; Regeneration and Economic Development; Children, Young People & Education.

The additional council committees include:

- The Equalities Board, which will ensure that all 9 protected characteristics within the Equalities Act are covered. The board will have representation from Community groups to consider equalities issues to ensure a consistent approach.
- The Environment Forum, which will deal with issues affecting the environment and local areas under the current structure with a committed focus on tackling climate change in the borough.

Enfield Council elects 63 councillors across the borough.

Enfield Council spends a total of £1019,886 on Councillor allowances, in line with neighbouring borough Haringey Council which spends £1,100,520; and less than comparator borough Croydon Council which spends £1,524,894.

For more information contact Enfield Labour Group, Leader's Office

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