

Part 6

Members' Allowances Scheme

Members^[CMM2] Allowances Scheme

MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME – 2011/12

The Members' Allowances Scheme operating from 1st April 2011 provides for the following:

1. Payment of a Basic Allowance of £5,072 to every Councillor for the year.
2. Payment of Special Responsibility Allowances to:-

Leaders of Political Groups	£134 basic allowance, plus £52 for each Member of the Group
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Executive Members

Leader of the Council	£12,590
Deputy Leader of the Council	£10,282
Other Portfolio Holders	£8,394

Chairmen of Committees/Panels

Planning	£4,842
Overview & Scrutiny	£2,813
Regulatory	£500
Licensing Sub	£500
Budget Scrutiny Review Panel	£500

Independent Members – Standards Committee	£500
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Members of the Planning Committee	£715
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Payment will be made in monthly instalments and apportioned during the year, where appropriate. Members wishing to elect not to receive any Special Responsibility and/or Basic Allowance to which they are entitled, should write to Karen Mullett in Financial (Payroll) Services as soon as possible.

3. Travelling expenses will be paid for attendance at approved meetings. The list of approved duties is set out in Schedule 1 of the scheme.
4. Where the requirements of paragraph 3 are met a travelling allowance for use of a private car will be paid at the following rates:

Car	- 40 pence per mile
Motorcycle	- 24 pence per mile

The above rates are subject to the equivalent standard rail fare for the journey being payable where this is lower. An enhanced travel allowance for shared vehicle use of 10 pence per mile for the first passenger and 6 pence per mile for the second and subsequent passengers is also payable.

In relation to travel between a Member's home and the Town Hall, Reigate or other place for approved duties within the Borough, the travel allowance can only be claimed and paid for mileage from and to the Borough boundary. This restriction should not apply to travel on official duties outside of the Borough.

The current bicycle allowance is 25p per mile.

5. Subsistence is generally only payable when a Member is not able to take a meal at his/her usual place of residence and has not been provided with refreshments at the Council's expense. Prior approval by the Chief Executive is required. The rates of Subsistence Allowance are currently as follows:
- (i) in the case of an absence, not involving an absence overnight from the usual place of residence:-
 - (a) Breakfast - £6.36
 - (b) Lunch - £8.78
 - (c) Tea - £3.47
 - (d) Evening Meal - £10.87
 - (ii) in the case of an absence overnight from the usual place of residence:-
 - Standard Rate - £93.43
 - Absence in London or at an approved Conference - £106.61

The rate specified in (ii) above is deemed to cover a continuous period of absence of 24 hours. It should be reduced by an appropriate amount in respect of any meal provided free of charge by an Authority or Body during the period to which the allowance relates.

Subsistence cannot be claimed where expenses are already paid, for example as part of a course/conference fee. Prior approval to claim should be sought from the Chief Executive.

6. A Carer's Allowance is payable at the rate of £7.35 per hour per carer. The carer must be over 16 years of age and cannot be a member of the claimant's household.

The Scheme covers Members with responsibility for:

- (i) one or more children under 16 years of age; and
- (ii) a relative or household member who, by virtue of physical / mental incapacity, requires constant care and attendance (as defined by Attendance Allowance).

A maximum of £3,000 can be paid to an individual Member in any one Municipal Year.

Carer's Allowance is payable in respect of the approved duties set out in schedule 1 to this scheme apart from attendance at meetings of Outside Bodies.

8. Suspension or Partial Suspension

Where a Member is suspended or partially suspended from his/her responsibilities or duties as a Member of the Council in accordance with Part III of the Local Government Act 2000 or Regulations made under that Part, part of the basic or co-optees' allowance and, where appropriate, special responsibility allowance (together with travel and subsistence allowance) payable to him/her in respect of the period for which he/she is suspended or partially suspended be withheld by the Council.

ADMINISTRATION

All payments will be made on a monthly basis through the payroll by direct transfer to your bank account. Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances will attract income tax and National Insurance deductions where appropriate. Travelling Allowances being reimbursements are not subject to National Insurance deductions. Any mileage expenses, above the Inland Revenue's Approved Mileage Allowance Payments (AMAP) are taxable. The AMAP for a car is 40p and 20p for a motorcycle. To avoid National Insurance deductions, the payment of allowances must not reach £476 per month during 2010/11. Age Exception cards can be used (but the Council, as employing authority, will still be subjected to the Employer's contribution of National Insurance). Such cards can be obtained on application from the local Department of Social Security by persons of state pensionable age. On receipt of such a card by the recipient, it should be handed over to the Payroll Manager who will then ensure that the card is utilised when the gross allowances in any month reaches the National Insurance figure of £476 per month.

Where a Member is currently paying the maximum National Insurance contribution relating to his/her normal employment he/she is advised to apply for deferment from the local Department of Social Security. In these circumstances, the Department will almost certainly advise the Council not to deduct National Insurance contributions from that Member's gross pay.

Members' claims for travel and subsistence where payable should be sent to the Democratic Services by the 15th of each month.

Details of payments made by bank transfer will be despatched to Members no later than the end of the month. Blank forms relating to Travelling and Subsistence Allowance claims are available from Chris Cook in Democratic Services (Tel: 01737 276024) or Karen Mullett in Financial (Payroll) Services (Tel: 01737 276581).

Queries as to whether an allowance is payable should be directed to Chris Cook. Queries relating to payments received should be directed to Karen Mullett.

SCHEDULE 1

APPROVED DUTIES

The following meetings are specified as an approved duty for the purpose of determining eligibility for travel and subsistence allowances:

- (a) Council, Executive and Council Committees, Sub-Committees, Task Groups, Policy Development Groups, Overview and Scrutiny Panels, Working Groups, Area Planning Panels, Local Joint Forum, Health and Safety Forum, Chairman's Previews, Agenda Planning Meetings and Housing Appeals Panel which Members attend;
- (b) Local Authority Associations of which the Council is a Member;
- (c) Formal Site Visits and other meetings authorised in advance by a Committee or Sub-Committee;
- (d) Seminars held by the Council for Members;
- (e) Outside organisations (including associated attendances) to which the Member has been appointed by the Executive or a Committee or Sub-Committee of the Council.
- (f) The opening of tenders in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.
- (g) Meetings in relation to the discharge of Executive functions by Executive Members, including:
 - the Executive;
 - Leader's meeting;
 - meetings with the Chief Executive, Directors or Service Managers; and
 - meetings with other local authorities, outside organisations and individuals.
- (h) Ad hoc attendances approved by the Chief Executive.