

## **GUIDE TO MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

This guide provides Members with the information on the allowances they may be eligible to receive, and the conditions on making of claims. The rates within this guide are applicable from 1 April 2013. They are subject to a cost of living increase each April which will be incorporated following national agreement of employee provisions.

New regulations on Members Allowances came into force on 1 May 2003. Local Authorities (Members Allowances) Regulation 2003 replaced six existing sets of regulations.

The Members' Allowance Scheme is published within the Council's area after making of any scheme. In addition, the payments made to each Member for basic, special responsibility and other allowances are published at the end of each financial year.

Members' Allowances are the responsibility of the Chief Executive. The Payroll and Job Evaluation Manager (ext. 3273) processes all claims for payment. They will be pleased to answer any queries or provide advice as required.

### **2. INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL**

The Council established an independent remuneration panel with effect from 1 May 2003. The panel is made up of 9 representatives. The purpose of the panel was to make recommendations to the Council about the level of Members' allowances to be paid. This is in accordance with the requirements of the Members Allowances Regulations 2003.

The Council is required to comply with the duty to have regard to the panel's recommendations. This has been carried out by the Council on each occasion that the Panel has met and put forward recommendations.

In 2006, following the resignation of two members, Cabinet resolved to re-establish the panel. The panel has met on a number of occasions since then to consider developments in the role of Members and to make recommendations for adjustments to the scheme of allowances.

### **3. MEMBERS ALLOWANCE SCHEME**

The following level of allowance has been agreed with effect from April 2024.

#### **3.1 Basic Allowance**

A basic allowance of £4,767 per annum is paid to each Member to reflect the commitment expected. This is intended to recognise the time element of meeting with constituents and officers, group activities, together with incidental expenses (use of home, postage costs, telephone calls, surgeries etc).

### 3.2 Special Responsibility Allowance

A payment for those Members who have significant additional responsibilities over and above the generally accepted duties of a Member. The following categories have been determined as meeting these criteria.

• <b>Leader of the Council</b>	<b>£ p.a.</b>
Leader	15,031
Deputy Leader	6,764
• <b>Cabinet</b>	
Chair	5,260
Vice Chair	5,260
With Portfolio	5,260
Without Portfolio	3,439
• <b>Overview and Scrutiny</b>	
Chair	5,260
Vice Chair	869
• <b>Overview and Scrutiny Working Groups</b>	
Chair	310
Vice Chair	103
• <b>Policy Advisory</b>	
Chair	3,439
Vice Chair	869
• <b>Quasi Judicial Committees etc.</b>	
Chair (3)	
Planning	5,260
Licensing	5,260
Governance, Audit & Standards	3,439
Vice Chair (3)	
Planning	869
Licensing	869
Governance, Audit & Standards	869
Independent Person (x2)	1,503
Chair Health Task Group	1,223
Health Lead on Outside Bodies	1,223
Police and Crime Panel	1,223
• <b>Political Groups (3) – Additional Allowance</b>	
Leader of Opposition	3,439
Deputy Leader of Opposition	869
Business Manager	333
Political Group Leader	935

- **Civic**

Mayor	5,260
Deputy Mayor	1,503

### 3.3 Allowance for the Care of Children and Dependants

A member may claim an allowance for the care of children and dependants who require supervision, to enable members to carry out their duties. This is an allowance of up to £7.44 per hour, whilst the member is undertaking approved duties. Notification is to be made in advance of the possibility of a claim.

### 3.4 Travelling Allowance

A Member (elected or co-opted to any Committee, Sub-Committee or Working Group) shall be entitled to receive Travelling Allowance where expenditure on travelling is necessarily incurred for the purpose of enabling the duty to be performed. The allowance shall be paid from the Members' home to the place of the approved duty.

Where a Member travels by bus or train, actual expenditure can be reclaimed. Where a Member carrying out an approved duty (eg: conferences) travels by train, the Council has resolved that travel may be first class. For other than local travel, a railways warrant should be used and these are obtainable from the Accountancy Section.

The rates of travelling allowance by motorcar, motorcycle or cycle, are determined by the Council (see Appendix 1 for current rates). The distance claimed should be the shortest, most reasonable journey by road from the point of departure to the point at which the duty is performed and return. Payment will not exceed the appropriate rail fare. Taxi cab or hired vehicle will be on the basis of reimbursement of cost, based on the need to use this method of transport.

Members using their personal cars or motor cycles on Council business should ensure that they are covered for 'Business use' under their motor insurance policy. **The rates of travelling allowance are for a privately owned and expensed vehicle.**

### 3.5 Subsistence Allowance

A Member elected or co-opted on to any Committee, Sub-Committee or Working Group, may claim a Subsistence Allowance where the approved duty exceeds 4 hours in duration.

The allowance is only payable where actual expenditure has necessarily been incurred and proof of expenditure should be provided. The rates of allowance are not linked to the amount of the expenditure but to the period of absence from the usual place of residence.

### 3.6 Approved Duties for Travelling and Subsistence Allowances

Approved duties for the payment of travelling and subsistence allowance include all the duties specified as eligible for the payment of special responsibility allowance and in addition the following:

- a) Chair and Vice-Chair's and Executive Member Briefing meeting by Officers prior to any Committee meeting.
- b) Briefing or discussion meeting of Chair, Vice-Chair, Executive Member or Opposition Spokesperson with Officers.
- c) Members' Surgeries and Advice Bureau.
- d) Visits in consultation with Officers on Council business.
- e) Group meetings to discuss Council matters (rather than the organisation of the Group).

### 3.7 Attendance at Conferences

Attendance at Conferences is approved by Council and is an approved duty. Members may claim Travelling and Subsistence Allowances.

Travel will normally be by train unless special circumstances allow alternative arrangements. Where a car is used the travel allowance will not exceed the appropriate first class rail fare.

Conference fees are normally paid directly by the Council. Where hotel expenses are paid by Members, the expenditure can be reclaimed up to the prescribed scale expense (see Appendix 2).

Attendance allowance is no longer payable for any approved conference or meeting, (Local Authority (Members Allowances) Regulations 2003).

### 3.8 Communication Allowance

A member will personally provide a PC/printer and software, for Council business with an allowance of £200 per annum being paid to cover this cost. Where the Council have provided IT equipment half this allowance will be paid.

The Council will reimburse the basic rental plus VAT as a monthly allowance, which currently stands at £32.58 for telephone and broadband. The cost of calls is accounted for within the basic allowance.

**The allowance is not payable where reimbursement is received from another source, e.g. employer, partner's employer, another local authority. Please inform the Payroll Officer if you are not eligible for the allowance.**

### 3.9 Accommodation

Council owned premises can be used, when available, free of charge for meetings on Council business (Group Meetings, surgeries etc). Reimbursement of charges incurred by Members for hired premises is not made by the Council, unless there are exceptional circumstances and subject to prior approval of the Council.

### 3.10 Updating the Agreed Level of Allowance

All allowances are updated by the average national change in pay of employees.

### 3.11 Membership of Local Government Pension Scheme

Members are not eligible to join or remain a member of the Local Government Pension Scheme from 1 April 2014.

### 3.12 Co-optee Allowance

An attendance allowance of £38.16 per day, or part of a day, is payable for non-councillors who are appointed to a committee or working group of the Council. Travel and subsistence allowance is also payable.

## 4. THE CLAIMING AND PAYMENT OF ALLOWANCES

Payment of the Basic Allowance and Special Responsibility Allowance will be made automatically each month on a current month basis.

There is one claim form to cover claims for:

Travelling Allowance/Fares etc  
Subsistence Allowance

Claims can only be accepted for payment on the claim form, which must be completed in full by the Member and the statutory declaration contained on each form must be signed. Please note that claims cannot be accepted for duties performed more than 3 months prior to submission of the claim.

The Chief Executive has a duty not to pay claims which are evidently outside the law or in conflict with the rules of the Council. Democratic Services will check as far as possible the accuracy of the claim but it is the Member's responsibility to make sure that the claim is legal and that the facts in the claim are correct.

Claims should be submitted monthly, to be received by the 6 of each month for payment to be made on the 20 of the month following the period of claim, eg claims for Travelling Allowances for the month of May should be submitted by 6 June. Payment of the claim will then be made on 20 June at the same time as the Basic Allowance/Special Responsibility Allowance for the month of June.

All payments will be made directly into the Member's own bank or building society account on the 20 of each month. A payment advice will be sent giving details of the net amount and showing income tax and national insurance deductions for the month, together with accumulated payments and deductions for the year.

The form and guidance on completion is available on the intranet.

### 4.1 Renunciation

A Member may, by notice in writing, elect to forego any part of entitlement to an allowance under this scheme.

### 4.2 Part-Year Entitlements

Where in the course of a year the entitlements of a Member to basic and special responsibility allowance under this scheme is amended; or that Member becomes, or ceases to be, a Member; or accepts or relinquishes a special responsibility in respect of

which a special responsibility allowance is payable, then the allowance will be paid pro-rata to the full allowance calculated on a daily basis.

## 5. DEDUCTIONS FROM ALLOWANCES AND AFFECT ON BENEFITS

### 5.1 Income Tax

Income Tax will be deducted from payments of Basic Allowances, Special Responsibility Allowance and Telephone Allowance, but not travel and subsistence allowances and other allowances. This will be at the standard rate of tax unless a Member makes arrangements with the Tax Office for a tax code to be allocated.

For all matters relating to Members income tax please contact HMRC 0300 200 3300. They may require the tax reference for Broxtowe Borough Council which is 507/201022.

### ***Income Tax Relief***

Relief against income tax paid is available against expenses which are incurred by Members and covered within the basic allowance.

HMRC will also allow individual claims for expenses exclusively and necessarily incurred in the performance of their duties.

This usually includes the cost of postages; stationery, hire of rooms, telephone and PC line charges and telephone calls from Members' homes. In addition, travelling costs (to see constituents, for parish meetings, to attend surgeries, for site visits) can be claimed as an expense at 50% of the Members mileage rate.

Records of the expenses are required.

### 5.2 National Insurance

National Insurance contributions are payable on Basic, Special Responsibility and Telephone Allowances but as payment of the allowances is made on a monthly basis, contributions will only become due where the total allowances for any monthly period exceeds the lower earnings limit.

### 5.3 Social Security Benefits

Members should notify the Department of Social Security of any allowance payments they receive if they are claiming or receiving any benefit.

### 5.4 Housing/Council Tax Benefits

Members should notify the Housing Benefits Section of the Directorate of Finance of any allowance payments they receive if they are claiming or receiving these benefits.

### 5.6 Sickness and maternity

The Payroll Officer should be notified of any periods of sick leave or maternity leave as there may be implications for statutory sick pay (SSP) or statutory maternity pay (SMP). Earnings that attract national insurance contributions may qualify for SSP and SMP.

Copies of any doctor's notes or self-certification forms should be forwarded to the payroll section for relevant action.

## 6. INSURANCE

### 6.1 Protection of No Claim Discount while using cars on Council Business

Arrangements have been made for a group insurance scheme to cover Members whose cars are damaged while in use on Council business (eg travelling to, or parked, when at meetings).

If a claim is made on the Member's normal motor insurance policy, causing a reduction in no claims discount in the following year, a payment equal to that loss up to a maximum of £250 may be made. Similarly, if a motor policy contains an excess clause where the policyholder pays the first, say, £50 of any claim, then the excess, if the actual amount of the damage is more, is payable up to a maximum of £150.

All reasonable steps should be taken to recover the cost of repairs where the person causing the damage is known.

Further details and claim forms can be obtained from the Payroll & Job Evaluation Manager.

### 6.2 Personal Accident

Under this policy, benefits are payable in the event of death, bodily injury or disablement, sustained by violent accidental external and visible means, whilst engaged on the business of the Council.

Council business extends to direct travel in connection with such business and service on behalf of the Council on committees of other Authorities or Bodies. Loss of, or damage to, clothing and personal effects arising as a result of injury being sustained is also provided for if such loss is not recoverable from another source.

### 6.3 Libel and Slander

The Council is indemnified against claims in respect of libels appearing in any publications normal in the Insured's business and slanders in oral utterances made by any Member in the course of and in pursuance of official procedure.

Limit of Indemnity - £1,000,000

### 6.4 Other Insurance

The policies mentioned below are all subject to the following proviso:

"The Member, at the time if the incident giving rise to the claim, was acting within the scope of his authority and is not entitled to indemnity under any other policy."

#### ***Public Liability***

This policy indemnifies all elected Members of the Council and Co-opted Members of any Committee or Sub Committee against Third Party claims.

Limit of Indemnity - £25,000,000



### ***Employer's Liability***

In the rare event of a claim being lodged against a specific Member or Members and not against the Authority the indemnity is extended to cover such Member(s).

Limit of Indemnity - £25,000,000

### ***Public Health Regulations Liability***

Under the Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 1988, the Authority may, if this is felt necessary, issue to any person(s) a 'Notice to Discontinue Work'. Any resultant claim against a Member(s) for

either :            loss of earnings by the recipient of the Notice

or            :            loss by the employer of a recipient of a Notice, due to his compliance with the Notice

is covered under this policy.

Limit of Liability    -        £500,000

## APPENDIX a

### **RATES OF TRAVELLING ALLOWANCES FOR TRAVEL BY MOTOR VEHICLE**

The current rates of travelling allowance are:

1. The rate for travel by a solo motorcycle shall be as follows:

less than 500 cc	24.0p per mile
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500 cc and over	34.0p per mile
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2. The rate for travel by private motor vehicle shall be as follows:

45p per mile or the relevant HMRC rate.

PSV / Training rate 22p per mile

For mileage outside the County the first 50 miles will be at the HMRC rate with the balance paid at the Council's PSV / training rate.

3. The rate for travel by Taxicab shall not exceed:

- i) In the case of urgency where no public transport is reasonably available;

The amount of the actual fare and any reasonable gratuity paid.

- ii) In any other case:

The amount of the fare for travel by appropriate Public Transport.

4. The rate for travel by a hired vehicle other than a Taxicab shall not exceed the rate which would have been applicable had the vehicle belonged to the Member who hired it.

Provided that where the Council so approves the rate may be increased to an amount not exceeding the actual cost of hiring.

5. The rate for travel by cycle shall be 45p per mile.

## **SCHEDULE OF SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCE**

1. The current rates of subsistence allowance are:
  - i) In the case of an absence, involving an absence of more than 4 hours away from the usual place of residence the allowance shall not exceed:
 

a) Breakfast (before 11 am)	£6.58
b) Lunch (including the period 12 noon to 2 pm)	£9.03
c) Tea (including the period 3 pm to 6 pm)	£3.61
d) Evening Meal (ending after 7 pm)	£11.14

**(Proof of expenditure should be provided)**

- ii) In the case of an absence overnight from the usual place of residence where payment is not directly paid by the Council £90.05. For such an absence overnight in London, or for the purpose of attendance at an Annual Conference (including or not including an annual meeting) of the Association of District Councils, £102.71. Please note that this is a payment for the 24-hour period and is the maximum total allowance that can be paid.

For the purpose of this paragraph, London means the City of London and the London Boroughs of Camden, Greenwich, Hackney, Hammersmith, Islington, Kensington and Chelsea, Lambeth, Lewisham, Southwark, Tower Hamlets, Wandsworth and Westminster.

2. Any rate determined shall be deemed to cover a continuous period of absence of 24 hours.
3. The rates specified in paragraph 1 above, shall 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.
4. Meals on Trains – Where main meals (i.e. a full breakfast, lunch or dinner) are taken on trains during a period for which there is an entitlement for a day subsistence allowance, the reasonable cost of the meals (including VAT), may be reimbursed in full. In such circumstances, reimbursement for the reasonable cost of a meal would replace the entitlement to the day subsistence allowance for the appropriate meal period.