

# Members' Allowances Scheme 2011-12

[Scheme effective from 26<sup>th</sup> May 2011]

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This scheme is made in accordance with the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 ("the Regulations") for 2011 –2012 and subsequent years. The allowances scheme has been prepared having regard to the report of the Independent Panel on the Remuneration of Councillors in London established by London Councils on behalf of all London Councils, co-authored by Rodney Brooke, Drew Stevenson and Jo Valentine, and published in May 2010.

## 1. BASIC ALLOWANCE

- 1.1 The independent remunerator's report suggests a flat-rate basic allowance be paid to each member of the authority of £9964 per annum to be paid in 12 monthly instalments on the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.
- 1.2 The Council has taken into account the independent remunerator's recommendation but has decided to retain its own basic rate allowance frozen at the 2008 – 09 level.

The basic rate allowance for all LBHF Councillors will therefore be:

£8,940 - to be paid in 12 monthly instalments on the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.

Councillors only receive an allowance for the period of their term of office in cases where it is less than the whole financial year.

## 2. SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY ALLOWANCES

- 2.1 Regard has been had to the recommendations in the independent remunerator's report for differential banding in relation to the payment of Special Responsibility Allowances (SRA's), but in the interest of maintaining a low Council Tax and the current economic conditions, it has been decided to freeze the Council's own scheme of SRA's at the same level approved for 2008 - 9 and not to follow the independent remunerator's recommendations which would have proved considerably more costly to local council taxpayers.
- 2.2 The following Special Responsibility Allowances shall therefore be paid to Councillors holding the specified offices indicated:

The Leader	£35,763
Deputy Leader	£29,796
Other Cabinet members (6)	£23,838
Chief Whip (where not a member of Cabinet)	£23,838
Deputy Chief Whip	£5,000
Chairmen of Overview & Scrutiny Committees (4)	£6,183
Leader of the Opposition	£17,874
Deputy Leader of the Opposition	£6,183
Opposition Whip	£6,183

Chairmen of Planning Applications Committee, Audit and Pensions Committee, Licensing Committee & Councillor member on Adoption Panel	£6,183
The Mayor	£11,922
Deputy Mayor	£6,183
Cabinet Assistants	£3,000

Councillors only receive an allowance for the period of their term of office in cases where it is less than the whole financial year. A Special Responsibility Allowance would cease where the SRA entitled post ceases to exist during year.

### 3) OTHER ALLOWANCES

#### a) Dependent Carer Allowance

Dependant carer allowance is payable in respect of expenses incurred for the care of a member's children or dependants in attending meetings of the authority, its executive, committees and sub-committees and in discharging the duties set out in paragraph 7 of the Regulations.

- (1) £4.18 per half hour before 10 p.m.; £5.31 per half hour after 10 p.m.  
(not payable in respect of a member of the councillor's household).

#### b) Travel & Subsistence

Allowances are payable (at the same rates as employees) for duties undertaken away from the Town Halls when discharging duties under paragraph 8 of the Regulations. In addition, the cost of travel after late evening meetings from the Town Hall would be paid.

##### (1) Public Transport

Actual travel costs (second class only) will be reimbursed.

##### (2) Car mileage

Cc	first 8500 miles (pence per mile)	above 8500 miles (pence per mile)
Below 1000	42.9	11.7
1000 or more	47.7	12.2

The figures above are the 2009/10 rates as car mileage is paid at the same rate as for officers.

##### (3) Cycle allowance

£36.93 per month – where this is claimed, no other travel claims are permissible.

**(4) Subsistence**

Allowance payable at same rates and conditions as employees.  
Payment is only made for expenses incurred outside the Borough, and is subject to a maximum of £5.00 per claim.

**c) Sickness, Maternity and Paternity Allowance**

Where a Member is entitled to a Special Responsibility Allowance, it will continue to be paid in the case of sickness, maternity and paternity leave in the same way as employees.

**4) ANNUAL INCREASE**

The allowances in this scheme apply to the financial year 2011-12. All allowances have been frozen at the 2008 – 9 level.

**5) ELECTION TO FOREGO ALLOWANCES**

In accordance with the provisions of regulation 13, a Councillor may, by notice in writing to the Chief Executive, elect to forego any part, or all, of his or her entitlement to an allowance under this scheme.

**6) TIME LIMIT FOR CLAIMS**

The majority of allowances are payable monthly, but where allowances are the subject of claims, these claims should be made in the agreed form with the appropriate declaration within six months of the duty to which they relate.

**7) WITHHOLDING OF ALLOWANCES**

In the event of a Councillor being suspended or partially suspended, the Standards Committee shall have the power to withhold the allowances payable to that Councillor either in whole or in part for the duration of that suspension.

**8) MEMBERS' PENSIONS**

Previously, Councillors could only join the authority's pension scheme if they were aged under 70 and could only pay contributions and accrue benefits until their 70<sup>th</sup> birthday. However, under new pensions regulations, the situation has changed, and the independent remunerator's report now recommends all Councillors under the age of 75 years be entitled to join the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham Pension Scheme, and have their basic allowance and special responsibility allowances treated as pensionable. This recommendation has accordingly been adopted.

## **9) MEMBERSHIP OF MORE THAN ONE AUTHORITY**

A member may not receive allowances from more than one authority (within the meaning of the regulations) in respect of the same duties.

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### **ALLOWANCES FOR CO-OPTED MEMBERS AND INDEPENDENT MEMBERS OF STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

#### **Co-optees**

The independent remunerator's report recommends a rate of allowance for co-opted members of £117 per meeting, to be calculated on an annualised basis by the number of meetings. This recommended figure has not been adopted. The Council's own figure of £504.00 p.a. payable by equal monthly instalments of £42.00 on the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.

Co-opted members shall be entitled to the same travel allowances as Councillors, but shall not be entitled to subsistence payments

#### **Standards Committee Independent Members**

The independent remunerator's report also recommends the independent Chairman and Committee Members of a Standards Committee be paid an allowance of £256 and £127 per meeting respectively, calculated on an annualised basis by the number of meetings, to reflect not just attendance at meetings, but related and incidental additional activity carried out by the postholders. This recommendation has not been adopted. The Council's own figure of £252.00 p.a. payable by equal monthly instalments of £21.00 on the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.

In all cases, the allowances given in this scheme shall not be uprated by the same percentage rate of increase as the previous years national Local Government Pay Settlement but frozen at the 2008 – 9 levels.