

## **MID AND EAST ANTRIM BOROUGH COUNCIL SCHEME OF ALLOWANCES PAYABLE TO COUNCILLORS**

This Scheme is made under the Local Government (Payments to Councillors) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019. The scheme has been prepared in accordance with Department for Communities Local Government Circular LG 12/25 “*Consolidated Councillor Allowances Circular - Updated April 2025*”, issued in April 2025.

### **1. Definitions**

In this scheme

- ‘Approved duty’ and ‘committee member’ are as defined in the Local Government (Payments to Councillors) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019.
- ‘Department’ means the Department for Communities;
- ‘Guidance’ means the Department for Communities Councillors’ Allowances Guidance for District Councils in Northern Ireland, issued in September 2019; and
- ‘Regulations’ means the Local Government (Payments to Councillors) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019.

### **2. Commencement Date**

This scheme of allowances shall be operational from 1 April 2025 however application of the updated Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances effective from 1 April 2024 will be applied and be back paid, in line with Executive agreement.

### **3. Basic Allowance**

- 3.1 An annual basic allowance of £18,329 shall be paid to each councillor. Where applicable this will be paid pro-rata.
- 3.2 The Annual basic allowance with effect from 1 April 2024 of £17,456 shall now be back paid to each councillor. Where applicable this will be paid pro-rata.
- 3.3 No council may pay more than one basic allowance to a councillor.
- 3.4 Basic allowance is intended to recognise the full time commitment of councillors, including such inevitable calls on their time as meetings with officers and constituents.
- 3.5 The basic allowance is intended to cover incidental costs incurred by councillors in their official capacity, such as the use of their homes, office consumables and cost of mobile phone calls.
- 3.6 In circumstances where a councillor is suspended from carrying out the duties of a councillor in accordance with section 59(5) or section 60(1) of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014, the part of the basic allowance payable to the councillor in respect of the period for which the councillor is suspended should be withheld.

#### **4. Special Responsibility Allowance**

- 4.1 A special responsibility allowance shall be paid to those councillors who hold the special responsibilities specified in Schedule 1.
- 4.2 The amount of allowance shall be the amount specified against that special responsibility in the Schedule. The allowance is only payable whilst the councillor is carrying out that duty.
- 4.3 At any time, only one special responsibility allowance will be paid to a councillor.
- 4.4 In circumstances where a councillor is suspended from carrying out the duties of a councillor in accordance with section 59(5) or section 60(1) of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014, any SRA payable to the councillor in respect of the period for which the councillor is suspended should be withheld.

#### **5. Mayor/Deputy Mayor Allowance**

- 5.1 An allowance of £1,000 per month will be payable to the Mayor of the council.
- 5.2 An allowance of £650 per month will be payable to the Deputy Mayor of the council.
- 5.3 The Department advises that any Mayor/Deputy Mayor Allowance should be considered totally separate from SRA arrangements.

#### **6. Dependants' Carers' Allowance**

- 6.1 Councillors are entitled to claim a dependants' carers' allowance towards reimbursement of actual reasonable costs necessarily incurred in providing care for an eligible dependant, while carrying out an approved duty.
- 6.2 The allowance may be paid for a dependant who requires full-time care and who resides with the councillor as part of that household.
- 6.3 A dependant is defined as:
  - a child under 16 years old;
  - a child 16 years old or more, where there is medical or social work evidence that full-time care is required;
  - an adult with a recognised physical or mental disability where there is medical or social work evidence that full-time care is required; or
  - an elderly relative requiring full-time care.
- 6.4 For the purposes of this allowance, a carer is defined as a responsible person over 16 years' old who does not normally live with the councillor as part of that household; and is not a parent/guardian of the dependent child.

- 6.5** A specialist carer is defined as a qualified person who is needed where it is essential to have professional assistance. In these circumstances a receipt must be attached to the claim.
- 6.6** A dependants' carers' allowance shall be payable based upon actual receipted costs or at the appropriate hourly rate, whichever is the lower; up to the monthly maximum. You can backdate your claim by up to 3 months.
- 6.7(a)** The effective hourly rate valid from the 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026 for dependants' carers' allowance for standard care shall be £12.21, and for specialised care £24.42. The monthly maximum for standard care payable is £635, and the monthly maximum for specialised care is £1,270.
- 6.7(b)** The amounts stated above will be subject to any increase to the minimum wage for 21+.
- 6.7(c)** Councillors may claim only one dependants' carers' allowance in respect of each occurrence of approved duty. Only one dependants' carers' allowance rate is payable even if there are 2 or more children/dependants being cared for.

## **7. Travel and Subsistence Allowances**

- 7.1** A councillor or committee member shall be entitled to claim travel and subsistence allowances where expenditure on travelling, or subsistence has been necessarily incurred in connection with an approved duty as specified in Schedule 2. The amount claimed should not exceed the expense incurred.
- 7.2** The maximum rates of travel and subsistence are determined by the Department following consultation with the Northern Ireland Joint Council for Local Government Services.

**7.3** The rates of travel allowance for travel by private vehicle shall be as shown in the table below.

Type of Vehicle	Rate per Mile
A pedal cycle	20.0p
A motorcycle (all engine capacities)	24.0p
A motor car of cylinder capacity exceeding 450cc but not exceeding 999cc	46.9p *13.7p
A motor car of cylinder capacity exceeding 999cc but not exceeding 1,199cc	52.2p *14.4p
A motor car of cylinder capacity exceeding 1,199cc	65.0p *16.4p
An electric car	45.0p **25.0p
Passenger rate	5.0p

\*For mileage above 8,500 miles

\*\*For mileage above 10,000 miles

7.4 The rates of subsistence shall be as shown in the table below.

PERIOD/MEAL	RATES	
	British Isles £	London £
<b>Overnight allowance</b> - An absence involving an overnight stay, away from the normal place of residence. This rate does not include any meal allowance.	100.70	122.45
<b>Breakfast allowance</b> - (more than 4 hours away from the normal place of residence or, where approved by the council, a lesser period before 11 am)	11.50	
<b>Lunch allowance</b> - (more than 4 hours away from the normal place of residence or, where approved by the council, a lesser period including the period between 12 noon and 2pm)	13.50	
<b>Tea allowance</b> - (more than 4 hours away from the normal place of residence or, where approved by the council, a lesser period including the period between 3pm and 6pm)	4.70	
<b>Evening meal allowance</b> - (more than 4 hours away from the normal place of residence or, where approved by the council, a lesser period ending after 7pm)	20.95	

## 8. General

8.1 This scheme may be revoked or amended at any time.

## 9. Claims and Payment

9.1 Payments regarding basic allowance and special responsibility allowance shall be made monthly three clear banking days before month end.

9.2 Claims for dependants' carers' allowance, travelling allowance or subsistence allowance should be made in writing within three months, and should be accompanied by receipts, where appropriate. Claims submitted outside of this three-month period will not be processed, unless exceptional circumstances justify the late submission of a claim.

9.3 This Scheme of Allowances should be read in conjunction with Local Government Circular **LG 12/25** Councillors' Allowance Guidance which contains details on the applicable criteria for awarding each allowance.

## **10. Renunciations**

- 10.1** Councillors may, if they wish, renounce all or part of their entitlement to basic, chairperson, vice chairperson or special responsibility allowances. They can do this in writing to the Chief Executive. A Councillor can subsequently withdraw the renunciation. They can also amend a renunciation (for example, to limit it to one kind of allowance only). The withdrawal or amendment cannot have retrospective effect.

It is recommended that this should be an administrative arrangement for the council with political party arrangement.

## **11. Review**

- 11.1** The Scheme of Allowances Payable to Councillors will be subject to revision and review in accordance with any Departmental Circulars issued throughout the year.

### SCHEDULE 1 to the Scheme of Allowances

The following table provides details of the council's duties which attract a Special Responsibility Allowance and the associated allowance amount.

<b>Special Responsibility</b>	<b>Special Responsibility Allowance Rate (£)</b>
Chair of Corporate Resources, Policy, and Governance Committee	£500 per month
Vice-Chair of Corporate Resources, Policy, and Governance Committee	£300 per month
Chair of Audit and Scrutiny Committee	£500 per month
Vice-Chair of Audit and Scrutiny Committee	£300 per month
Chair of Planning Committee	£500 per month
Vice-Chair of Planning Committee	£300 per month
Chair of Neighbourhoods and Communities Committee	£500 per month
Vice-Chair of Neighbourhoods and Communities Committee	£300 per month
Chair of Environment & Economy Committee	£500 per month
Vice-Chair of Environment & Economy Committee	£300 per month
Chair of Personnel Committee	£500 per month
Vice-Chair of Personnel Committee	£300 per month
Partnership Panel Representative	£357 per meeting
Group Party Leader	£40 per month

## **SCHEDULE 2**

In accordance with Regulations, only the following are specified as the duties in respect of which basic allowance, dependants' carers' allowances, and travel and subsistence allowances are available.

1. attendance at a meeting of the council;
2. attendance at a meeting of a committee of the council;
3. attendance at a meeting of a sub-committee of the council;
4. attendance at a meeting of a joint committee;
5. attendance at a meeting of a sub-committee of a joint committee;
6. the doing of anything approved by a council or anything of a class so approved, for the purpose of, or in connection with, the discharge of the functions of the council, or any of its committees or sub-committees, or as the case may be, of the joint committee or any of its sub-committees.



Regarding point 7, specific duties approved by the Council are:

<b>Type of Activity regarding Point Number 7</b>
Working Groups of Council
Courses / Conferences / Seminars / Training approved by Council
Pre-Council Committee meetings with Council Officers
Meetings with Chief Executive / Council Officers
<b>Meetings of Outside Boards/Committees/Partnerships/Groups:</b>
• Policing and Community Safety Partnership
• Northern Ireland Housing Council
• Reserve Forces and Cadets Association for Northern Ireland
• Arc21
• All Party Group on Climate Action
• Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE)
• Ballygally Community Development Association Board Ltd
• Ballymena Academy Board of Governors
• Ballymena BID Board
• Ballymena North Partnership Board
• Carrickfergus Enterprise Agency
• Carrickfergus Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) Board
• City Deal Elected Member Joint Council Forum
• Dementia Friendly Communities Steering Group - Northern Area
• Doury Road Forum (Building Successful Communities)
• Greenisland Regeneration Steering Group
• iESE (Improvement and Efficiency Social Enterprise)
• Knockagh Monument Joint Committee
• Lough Neagh Partnership
• Mid & East Antrim Agewell Partnership
• Mid & East Antrim Community Advice Services
• Mid & East Antrim 'In Bloom' Partnership
• National Association of Councillors

<b>Type of Activity regarding Point Number 7</b>
• North Channel Partnership
• Northern Ireland Local Government Association
• NILGA Elected Member Development, Policy & Learning Network
• NILGA Strategic Policy Framework
• Northern Ireland Local Government Partnership on Travellers' Issues
• Northern Ireland Strategic Migration Partnership (NISMP)/NILGA Sustainable Communities and Demographics Working Partnership
• Peaceplus Partnership
• Somme Association
• St Patrick's Barracks Programme Board
• Town Centre Revitalise Steering Group
<b>** Working Groups / Sub-Groups of the above**</b>
Other duties in connection with the discharge of the functions of Council approved by the Chief Executive
<b>This list may be added to, amended, or reduced during the year in line with Council approval.</b>

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