



**Mid & East
Antrim**
Borough Council



SCHEME OF ALLOWANCES PAYABLE TO COUNCILLORS

www.midandeantrim.gov.uk

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) 2012. The scheme has been prepared in accordance with Department of the Environment's Local Government Circular LG 03/2017 "*Consolidated Councillor Allowances Circular - Updated February 2017*", issued in February 2017.

1. Definitions

In this scheme

- 'Approved duty' and 'committee member' are as defined in the Local Government (Payments to Councillors) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012.
- 'Department' means the Department of the Environment;
- 'Guidance' means the Department of the Environment's Councillors' Allowances Guidance for District Councils in Northern Ireland, issued in February 2015; and
- 'Regulations' means the Local Government (Payments to Councillors) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012.

2. Commencement Date

This scheme of allowances shall be operational from 1 April 2017.

3. Basic Allowance

- 3.1** An annual basic allowance of £14,485 shall be paid to each councillor. Where applicable this will be paid pro-rata.
- 3.2** No council may pay more than one basic allowance to a councillor.
- 3.3** 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.
- 3.4** 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.

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.

5. Mayor/Deputy Mayor Allowance

- 5.1 An allowance of £612 per month will be payable to the Mayor of the council.
- 5.2 An allowance of £510 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 dependant 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.
- 6.7 The hourly rate of dependants' carers' allowance for standard care shall be £7.50, and for specialised care £15.00. The monthly maximum for standard care payable is £390, and the monthly maximum for specialised care is £780. 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 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 motor cycle (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 £
Overnight allowance - 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
Breakfast allowance - (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	
Lunch allowance - (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	
Tea allowance - (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	
Evening meal allowance - (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.
- 8.2 The amounts stated in paragraph 6 will be subject to any increase to the minimum wage for 21+.

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.
- 9.3 This Scheme of Allowances should be read in conjunction with Local Government Circular **LG 03/2017** Councillors' Allowance Guidance which contains details on the applicable criteria for awarding each allowance.

10. Review

10.1 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.

Special Responsibility	Special Responsibility Allowance Rate (£)
Chair of Planning Committee	£408 per month
Vice-Chair of Planning Committee	£357 per month
Chair of Operational Committee	£408 per month
Vice-Chair of Operational Committee	£357 per month
Chair of Community Planning Committee	£408 per month
Vice-Chair of Community Planning Committee	£357 per month
Chair of Economic Growth and Development Committee	£408 per month
Vice-Chair of Economic Growth and Development Committee	£357 per month
Chair of Policy and Resources Committee	£408 per month
Vice-Chair of Policy and Resources Committee	£357 per month
Chair of Audit and Scrutiny Committee	£408 per month
Vice-Chair of Audit and Scrutiny Committee	£357 per month
Partnership Panel Representative	£357 per meeting

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. attendance at a meeting of a group committee established under the provisions of the Local Government (Employment of Group Building Control Staff) (Northern Ireland) 1994 or the Local Government (Employment of Group Environmental Health Staff) Order (Northern Ireland) 1994; or
7. 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.

A site visit is excluded from the list of approved duties and a site visit is defined as a visit made by a councillor in connection with an application for planning permission:

- which has been referred to a council for consultation under Article 15(a) of the Planning (General Development) Order (Northern Ireland) 1993; or
- at the request of the applicant for that planning permission, or the agent of an applicant, or at the request of an objector to that application.

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

Type of Activity regarding Point Number 7
Working Groups of Council
Courses / Conferences / Seminars / Training approved by Council
Pre-Council Committee meetings with Council Officers
Meetings with Chief Executive / Council Officers
Meetings of Outside Boards/Committees/Partnerships/Groups:
• Policing and Community Safety Partnership
• Northern Ireland Housing Council
• Reserve Forces and Cadets Association for Northern Ireland
• Arc21
• Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE)
• Ballygally Community Development Association Board Ltd
• Ballymena Academy Board of Governors
• Ballymena BIDs Company
• Carrickfergus Enterprise Agency
• Carrickfergus Regeneration Partnership
• Carrickfergus Revitalise Steering Group
• Carrickfergus Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) Board
• Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust
• Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust - Management Group AONB
• The Cliff, Larne
• Coastal Management Forum
• Dementia Friendly Communities Steering group - Northern Area
• Doury Road Forum (Building Successful Communities)
• Greenisland Regeneration Steering Group
• iESE (Improvement and Efficiency Social Enterprise)
• International Appalachian Trail
• Interreg - Interim NEP Joint Council Committee
• Knockagh Monument Joint Committee

Type of Activity regarding Point Number 7
• Larne Development Forum
• Local Government Forum
• Lough Neagh Partnership
• Mid & East Antrim Agewell Partnership
• Mid & East Antrim Citizens Advice Bureau
• Mid & East Antrim 'In Bloom' Partnership
• Mid & East Antrim Local Action Group
• Mid Antrim Heritage Advisory Panel
• National Association of Councillors
• Northern Ireland Amenity Council
• Northern Ireland Local Government Association
• Northern Ireland Local Government Association Charter Assessors
• Northern Ireland Local Government Partnership on Travellers' Issues
• PEACE IV Partnership
• Recurring Expenditure
• Somme Association
• Whitehead Regeneration Group
• Young Ambassadors Programme
** Working Groups / Sub-Groups of the above**
Other duties in connection with the discharge of the functions of Council approved by the Chief Executive
This list may be added to, amended or reduced during the course of the year in line with Council approval.

www.midandeantrim.gov.uk