

# **PART 6**

## **MEMBERS' ALLOWANCE SCHEME**

The London Borough of Brent, in exercise of the powers conferred by the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003; the Local Government and Housing Act 1989; the Local Government Act 2000 and the Local Government Act 1972 hereby makes the following Scheme.

### **Introduction**

1. This is Brent Council's Members' Allowance Scheme. The allowances in Schedule 1 shall become effective from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021. The Scheme was made on 22 February 2021.

### **Interpretation**

In this Scheme:

"Councillor" means a member of the London Borough of Brent who is a Councillor.

"Year" means a period of 12 months ending 31 March.

### **Basic Allowance**

2. For each year a basic allowance as set out in Schedule 1 of this Scheme shall be paid to each Councillor.

### **Special Responsibility Allowances**

3. (1) For each year, a Special Responsibility Allowance shall be paid to those Councillors who have the Special Responsibilities in relation to the authority that are specified in Schedule 1 of this Scheme.  
(2) The amount of each such Allowance shall be the amount specified against that Special Responsibility in Schedule 1.  
(3) No member shall receive more than one Special Responsibility Allowance.  
(4) No member of the Planning Committee, Licensing Committee, Adoption and Permanency Panel and Fostering Panel shall receive a Special Responsibility Allowance unless the member has attended or completed the mandatory training sessions for that body. The reference to mandatory training sessions are to such sessions as determined by the Council from time to time.

### **Allowances for the education co-opted members and the independent members on Audit and Standards Advisory Committee**

4. For each year an allowance as set out in Schedule 1 of this Scheme shall be paid to the education co-opted members and the independent members on the Audit and Standards Advisory Committee.

### **Dependants' Carers' Allowance**

- 5 (1) A dependants' carers' allowance may be claimed by a councillor in respect of such expenses of arranging for the care of their children or dependants as are necessarily incurred in the attendance at meetings or the performance of functions of a type specified in Schedule 2 provided that:

- i) the allowance will be for reimbursement only of the reasonable costs of such care which shall be equal to the hourly rate of the London Living Wage (unless special care is required and approved);
  - ii) receipts shall be produced; and
  - iii) written approval of the claim is obtained from the Head of Executive and Member Services prior to the meeting.
- (2) For the purposes of regulation 7(1)(h) of the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 (see Schedule 2), the following are approved duties in respect of which councillors are entitled to claim a dependants' carers' allowance:
- i) all approved internal and external learning and development sessions as part of the Council Member Learning and Development programme;
  - ii) meetings with government departments and other official bodies;
  - iii) meetings and/or briefings convened or authorised by Chief Officers provided that councillors of at least two political groups have been invited;
  - iv) Cabinet member/officer meetings;
  - v) formal inspections and site visits authorised by the Council;
  - vi) conferences that a councillor is appointed to attend;
  - vii) formal joint meetings with members of other authorities; and
  - viii) meetings of all other bodies to which councillors are appointed as a representative of the Council or a Committee. These include:
    - a. joint committees with staff;
    - b. working panels;
    - c. steering groups; and
    - d. advisory groups and outside bodies (appointed to by the Council).

### **Civic dignitaries**

6. In accordance with the necessary tax dispensation, for each year the allowances set out in schedule 1 shall be paid to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor to meet the expenses of their office.

### **Travelling and subsistence allowances**

7. (1) Subject to the conditions set out in this paragraph, reasonable travelling and subsistence expenses may be claimed by councillors (or co-opted or independent members) in respect of the attendance at conferences outside of the borough of Brent.
- (2) Subject to the conditions set out in this paragraph, reasonable expenses may be claimed for travel by councillors (or co-opted or independent members) with disabilities.
- (3) The expenses shall be for the purpose of, or in connection with, the discharge of the functions of the Council.
- (4) The prior written approval of the Head of Executive and Member Services or the Director Performance, Policy and Partnerships shall be obtained in respect of both the incurring of the expenses and the amount of the expenses.

- (5) Claims shall be reimbursed at the same rate as the Council reimburses expenses claimed by officers. Subject to any maximum limits which may apply, the amount of the claim shall be limited to the expense actually incurred.
- (6) Receipts shall be produced in respect of all claims.

### **Renunciation**

8. A Councillor (or co-opted or independent member) may, by notice in writing given to the Head of Executive and Member Services, elect to forego any part of their entitlement to an allowance under this Scheme.

### **Part-year Entitlements**

9. In so far as this scheme has effect for only part of a year or where, in the course of a year, this Scheme is amended or a Councillor or co-opted or independent member becomes or ceases to be a Councillor or co-opted or independent member, or accepts or relinquishes a special responsibility in respect of which a Special Responsibility Allowance is payable, the entitlement to such an allowance shall be to such part of the allowance as bears to the whole in the same proportion as the number of days during which their term of office subsists bears to the number of days in that year.

### **Claims and Payments**

10. (1) A dependents' carers' allowance, travelling and subsistence allowances or education co-opted or independent members' allowance under this Scheme shall be made in writing within two months of the date on which the duty in respect of which the entitlement to the allowance arises.
- (2) Payments shall be made:
  - (a) in respect of Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances, subject to Sub-Paragraph (4) below, in instalments of one-twelfth of the amount specified in this Scheme on a day each month as determined by the Head of Executive and Member Services.
  - (b) in respect of Mayoral and Deputy Mayoral allowances, in accordance with a scheme for which a tax dispensation has been given.
  - (c) in respect of dependents' carers' allowances, on the day as determined by the Head of Executive and Member Services in respect of claims received up to the last day of the preceding month.
- (3) Where a payment of one-twelfth of the amount specified in this Scheme in respect of a Basic Allowance or a Special Responsibility Allowance would result in the Councillor receiving more or less than the amount to which, by virtue of Paragraph 8, he or she is entitled, the payment shall be such amount as will ensure that no more or no less is paid than the amount to which he or she is entitled.
- (4) A record of all payments made under this Scheme showing recipient, nature and amount shall be maintained and made available for public inspection.
- (5) No member may claim an allowance under this Scheme if he or she is already claiming an allowance from another authority in respect of the same duties.

- (6) Where an allowance has already been paid in respect any period during which the person claiming the allowance was not entitled to so claim the Council may recover the amount paid.

### **Annual Uplift**

11. Basic, special and civic allowances payable under this Scheme shall be increased with effect from each April by a percentage equal to the inflation pay award agreed as part of the Local Government Pay Settlement in the previous financial year, unless otherwise determined by the Council.

### **Pensions**

12. (a) The following members of the Council are entitled to pensions in accordance with a members pension scheme:

*[none]*

- (b) The following allowances shall be treated as amounts in respect of which such pensions are payable:

*[none]*

### **Maternity, Paternity and Sickness Pay**

13. (1) A Councillor shall continue to receive in full a basic allowance as set out in Schedule 1 of this Scheme during any period of maternity, paternity and sickness leave.
- (2) A Councillor entitled to a Special Responsibility Allowance shall continue to receive their allowance during any period of maternity, paternity and sickness leave in the same way that the Council's employees enjoy such benefits.
- (3) If another Councillor is appointed to cover the period of absence, the replacement will be entitled to receive the same allowance.

## SCHEDULE 1

**BASIC, SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND CO-OPTED MEMBER ALLOWANCES WITH EFFECT FROM 1 APRIL 2021 ( AS REVIEWED ON 22 FEBRUARY 2021)****Basic Allowance**

Payable to all councillors = £12,484

**Special Responsibility Allowances**  
**(No more than one allowance per member)**

1. Leader of the Council = £39,748
2. Deputy Leader of the Council = £28,968
3. Other Cabinet Members = £19,087
4. Chair of the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee = £14,281
5. Chair of the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee = £14,281
6. Chair of the Planning Committee = £14,281
7. Members of the Planning Committee = £2,177
8. Chair of the Audit and Standards Committee (Vice-Chair of the Audit and Standards Advisory Committee) = £5,000
9. Chairs of the Brent Connects Area Consultative Forums = £1,250
10. Chair of the Licensing Committee = £3,234
11. Members of the Licensing Committee = £1,000
12. Member of the Adoption and Permanency Panel = £3,234
13. Member of the Fostering Panel = £3,234
14. Leader of the Principal Opposition Group\* = £8,000
15. Group Whip for the majority group with over 50% of councillors = £4,000
16. Mayor = £7,141
17. Deputy Mayor = £3,234

\*For the purposes of this Scheme this is the second largest group of the Council. If there are two or more opposition groups of the same size, it is such group as the Council shall decide.

**Co-opted Member Allowances**

1. Chair of the Audit and Standards Advisory Committee (voting) = £1,500
2. Independent members of the the Audit and Standards Advisory Committee (voting) = £427

3. Education voting and non-voting co-opted members of the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee £226.

## SCHEDULE 2

### Extract from The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003

#### Dependants' carers' allowance

7. (1) A scheme may provide for the payment to members of an authority of an allowance ("dependants' carers' allowance") in respect of such expenses of arranging for the care of their children or dependants as are necessarily incurred in—

(a) the attendance at a meeting of the authority or of any committee or sub-committee of the authority, or of any other body to which the authority makes appointments or nominations, or of any committee or sub-committee of such a body;

(b) the attendance at any other meeting, the holding of which is authorised by the authority, or a committee or sub-committee of the authority, or a joint committee of the authority and at least one other local authority within the meaning of section 270(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, or a sub-committee of such a joint committee, provided that—

(i) where the authority is divided into two or more political groups it is a meeting to which members of at least two such groups have been invited; or

(ii) if the authority is not so divided, it is a meeting to which at least two members of the authority have been invited;

(c) the attendance at a meeting of any association of authorities of which the authority is a member;

(d) the attendance at a meeting of the executive or a meeting of any of its committees, where the authority is operating executive arrangements;

(e) the performance of any duty in pursuance of any standing order made under section 135 of the Local Government Act 1972 requiring a member or members to be present while tender documents are opened;

(f) the performance of any duty in connection with the discharge of any function of the authority conferred by or under any enactment and empowering or requiring the authority to inspect or authorise the inspection of premises;

(g) the performance of any duty in connection with arrangements made by the authority for the attendance of pupils at any school approved for the purposes of section 342 of the Education Act 1996 (approval of non-maintained special schools)(1); and

(h) the carrying out of any other duty approved by the authority, or any duty of a class so approved, for the purpose of, or in connection with, the discharge of the functions of the authority or any of its committees or sub-committees.