

Appendix 2: Maternity, Paternity, **Adoption** and Sickness Pay-(Part 6, Members' Allowance Scheme)

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(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, **adoption**¹ and sickness leave.

(2) Councillors giving birth are entitled to up to six months maternity leave with the option to extend up to 52 weeks with the approval of the Chief Executive following consultation with the Chief Whip, where applicable. Maternity leave can begin:

- (a) When the councillor chooses but no earlier than 11 weeks before the expected week of childbirth, or
- (b) from the day following childbirth if the baby is born earlier

(3) A Councillor entitled to a Special Responsibility Allowance shall continue to receive their allowance during any period of maternity, paternity, **adoption** and sickness leave in the same way that the Council's employees enjoy such benefits.

(4) If another Councillor is appointed to cover the period of absence, the replacement will be entitled to receive the same allowance. **In accordance with paragraph 3.3 of this scheme, no Councillor shall receive more than one Special Responsibility Allowance.**

(5) Councillors shall be entitled to take up to 2 weeks paternity leave if they are the biological father or nominated carer of their partner/spouse following the birth of their child(ren).

(6) A Councillor who has made Shared Parental Leave arrangements is requested to advise the Council of these at the earliest possible opportunity. Every effort will be made to replicate the Council's staff policy in terms of leave as far as practicable with the approval of the Chief Executive following consultation with the Chief Whip, where applicable.

(7) Where both parents are Councillors, leave may be shared up to a maximum of 24 weeks for the first six months and 26 weeks for any leave agreed thereafter, up to a maximum of 50 weeks. Special and exceptional arrangements may be made in cases of prematurity with the approval of the Chief Executive following consultation with the Chief Whip, where applicable.

(8) If an election is held during the Member's maternity, paternity, shared parental or adoption leave and they are not re-elected, or decide not to stand for re-election, their basic allowance and SRA if appropriate will cease from the Monday after the election date when they would technically leave office.

¹ Where adoption has taken place through an approved adoption agency.