

PART 6

Members' Allowances Scheme

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LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

DRAFT MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME

1. This scheme shall have effect until 31st March 2004. It replaces all former schemes.

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Basic Allowance

2. A basic allowance of £5,225 per annum shall be paid to each Councillor.

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Special Responsibility Allowance

3. (1) A special responsibility allowance (SRA) shall be paid to those Councillors who have the special responsibilities in relation to the posts specified in Schedule 1 to this scheme. No Member may receive special responsibility allowances in respect of more than one post.
- (2) The amount of each such allowance shall be the amount specified against the special responsibility in that schedule.

Upating the basic and special responsibility allowances

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4. The basic allowance and special responsibility allowances will be updated annually in line with an index approved by the ALG independent panel. The index to be used will be the level of the Local Government Pay Settlement. When making the scheme for 2007/2008, the indexing arrangements will be reviewed.

Travel and Subsistence Allowances

5. The reimbursement of travel and subsistence expenses incurred in respect of **approved duties** (as set out in Schedule 2) **undertaken outside the Borough boundaries** can be claimed by Members and co-optees at the rates paid and on the conditions specified in the officer scheme for travel and subsistence allowances.

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Deleted: up to the maximum rates set, and subject to such conditions determined, by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) from time to time.

Carers' Allowance

6. (1) The allowance shall only be paid for attendance at approved duties as listed in Appendix B.

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- (2) The maximum basic rate of pay is £2.61 per half hour for the duration of the meeting together with the Member's travel time between home and the place of the meeting and the carer's reasonable travelling time.

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- (3) The allowance is claimable in respect of children aged 15 or under or where a professional carer is required to meet a specialist need (e.g. a nurse for an elderly person)

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- (4) Actual costs will be paid on production of an invoice or receipt

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~~(5) Where the length of the meeting cannot be predicted and payment to the carer is necessarily contractually committed then a payment of up to 4 hours will be made. (For daytime quasi-judicial meetings, payment of up to 8 hours may be made if the estimated length of the meeting is for the whole day).~~

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~~(6) In addition, the reasonable travelling expenses of the person taking care of the dependent shall be reimbursed either at the appropriate public transport rate, or in cases of urgency or where no public transport is available, the amount of any taxi fare actually paid.~~

~~(7) The allowance is not to be paid where the carer is a member of the Member's household.~~

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~~(8) Any dispute as to the entitlement and any allegation of abuse should be referred to the Standards Committee for adjudication.~~

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Claims and Payments

~~7. (1) A claim for allowances or expenses under this scheme shall be made in writing within two months of the date of undertaking the duty in respect of which the entitlement to the allowance or expense relates.~~

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(2) Payment shall be made

(a) in respect of basic and special responsibility allowances, in instalments of one-twelfth of the amount specified in this scheme each month;

(b) in respect of out-borough travel and subsistence expenses and Carers' Allowance, each month in respect of claims received up to one month before that date.

Backdating

~~8. Any changes made to this scheme during the year may be backdated to 1st April 2003 by resolution of the Council when approving the amendment.~~

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Pensions

~~9. Allowances paid under the Harrow Members' Allowances Scheme will **not** be pensionable for the purposes of the Superannuation Act~~

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Renunciation

~~10. A Councillor may by notice in writing given to the Borough Solicitor elect to forego any part of his/her entitlement to an allowance under this scheme.~~

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Withholding allowances

11. (1) In the event that a member is suspended from duties, that Member's basic allowance and special responsibility allowance (if any) will be withheld for the whole period of the Member's suspension.

- (2) In the event that a member is partially suspended from duties, that Member's basic allowance will be paid but their SRA, if any, will be withdrawn for the period of the partial suspension.

Approved duties for Carers' Allowance

- A meeting of the Executive.
- A meeting of a committee of the executive.
- A meeting of the Authority.
- A meeting of a committee or sub-committee of the Authority.
- A meeting of some other body to which the Authority make appointments or nominations, or
- A meeting of a committee or sub-committee of a body to which the Authority make appointments or nominations.
- A meeting which has both been authorised by the Authority, a committee, or sub-committee of the Authority or a joint committee of the Authority and one or more other authorities, or a sub-committee of a joint committee and to which representatives of more than one political group have been invited (if the Authority is divided into several political groups) or to which two or more councillors have been invited (if the Authority is not divided into political groups).
- A meeting of a Local Authority association of which the Authority is a member.
- Duties undertaken on behalf of the Authority in pursuance of any Procedural Rule of the Constitution requiring a member or members to be present while tender documents are opened.
- Duties undertaken on behalf of the Authority 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.
- Duties undertaken on behalf of the Authority in connection with arrangements made by the Authority for the attendance of pupils at a school approved for the purposes of section 342 of the Education Act 1996.

SCHEDULE 1

SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY ALLOWANCES

There are five bands of SRAs:-

Band	Post	SRA - £/annum
1	Deputy Leaders of the Second and Third Minority Groups Chief Whips of all Political Parties One Assistant to each Cabinet Member Chair of the General Purposes and Licensing Committee Chair of the Standards Committee	992.75
2	Members of Cabinet who are not Portfolio Holders	2,978.25
3	Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Overview and Scrutiny Committee Nominated Member of the largest party not holding the Chair of the Committee Chairs of the Scrutiny Sub-Committees (excluding Call-in): Environment and Economy Scrutiny Sub-Committee Health and Social Care Scrutiny Sub-Committee Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Sub-Committee Strengthening Communities Scrutiny Sub-Committee Chair of the Traffic Advisory Panel Development Control Committee Nominated Member of the largest party not holding the Chair of the Committee Leader of the Second Minority Group Leader of the Third Minority Group	6,426.75
4	Chair of the Development Control Committee Cabinet Portfolio Holders (excluding the Leader and Deputy Leader): Planning, Development, Housing and Best Value Education and Lifelong Learning Environment and Transport Social Services Finance and Human Resources and Performance Management Deputy Leader	12,853.50
5	Leader	19,280.25

- N.B. (1) In the Council elected on 2 May 2002, the Groups are as follows:-
 Largest Minority Group = Labour Group
 Second Minority Group = Conservative Group
 Third Minority Group = Liberal Democrat Group
(2) Only one SRA is payable per Member

SCHEDULE 2

CLAIMS FOR OUT-OF-BOROUGH TRAVEL AND SUBSISTENCE EXPENSES

Duties Undertaken Out-of-Borough

Claims for travel and subsistence expenses incurred can normally only be paid in respect of approved duties undertaken at venues out of the Borough. Expenses will be reimbursed at the rates paid and on the conditions specified in the officer scheme for travel and subsistence allowances.

1. Members may claim travel and subsistence expenses in respect of the following **out-of-Borough** duties:-
 - (a) Attendance at any meeting which may be convened by the Authority provided that Members of at least two groups are invited and officers do not convene the meeting.
 - (b) Attendance at a meeting of an outside body to which the Member has been appointed or nominated as a representative of the Council, where the Outside Body does not itself operate a scheme to reimburse travel and subsistence expenses.
 - (c)
 - (i) attendance at an appropriate out-of-Borough conference, seminar, meeting or other appropriate non-political event as a representative of an Outside Body to which that Member has been either nominated or appointed by Council to serve in a role with a specific pan-Authority remit;
 - (ii) attendance at meetings in the capacity of a direct appointee of a Local Authority Association, joint or statutory body or other London-wide or national body subject to the following proviso:

that the Member serves on the appointing body by virtue of an appointment made by Council to an authorised Outside Body;

subject in either case to the Outside Body/Bodies concerned themselves not making provision for any travel and subsistence expenses necessarily incurred.
 - (d) Attendance at a meeting of any association of local authorities of which the Authority is a member and to which the Member has been appointed as a representative.
 - (e) Attendance at a training session, conference, seminar or other non-political event, the attendance fees for which are being funded by the Council through a Departmental or a corporate budget.

- (f) Attendance at any training session, conference, seminar or other non-political event for which there is either no attendance fee or any attendance fee is being met by the Member him/herself (or from the relevant political group secretariat budget) subject to the relevant Head of Service confirming that the content of the training, conference, seminar or event is relevant to the Member's responsibilities in respect of the services provided by the Authority or to the management of the Authority.
2. Duties for which out-of-Borough travel and subsistence expenses may not be claimed include:-
- (a) Political meetings or events.
 - (b) Any meetings of 'Outside Bodies' to which the Member has not been appointed or nominated by the Council as its representative.
 - (c) Meetings of the Governing Bodies of Schools.