

<b>CABINET MEETING – 15 JANUARY 2026</b> <b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET – PART I</b>
<b>Title of Report:</b> Members' Allowances Scheme - 2026/2027
<b>Author(s):</b> Director of Finance and Assistant Director of Law and Governance
<b>Purpose of Report:</b> To consider and make recommendations to Council regarding the adoption of the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2026/2027, including the application of indexation to the Scheme.
<b>Description of Decision:</b> To consider recommending Council to approve the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2026 / 2027, such Scheme to be on the same terms as the current Scheme, including provision for the Basic Allowance to be increased annually in line with the increase in the Consumer Prices Index (CPI) published in the February prior to the relevant financial year, with such indexation to apply up to 31 March 2029, unless the Scheme is amended during that period.
<b>Is the decision consistent with the Budget/Policy Framework? Yes</b> <b>If not, Council approval is required to change the Budget/Policy Framework</b>
<b>Suggested reason(s) for Decision:</b> The Council must make a new Scheme before the beginning of each financial year.
<b>Alternative options to be considered and recommended to be rejected:</b> There are no alternative options in respect of the adoption of a Scheme for 2026/2027, as this is a statutory requirement.

**Impacts analysed;**

**Equality:** N/A

**Privacy:** N/A

**Sustainability:** N/A

**Crime and Disorder:** N/A

**Is the Decision consistent with the Council's co-operative values?** Yes

**Is this a "Key Decision" as defined in the Constitution?** No

**Is it included in the 28 day Notice of Decisions?** No

**MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME - 2026/2027**

**JOINT REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE**

**1. Purpose of report**

- 1.1 To consider and make recommendations to Council regarding the adoption of the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2026/2027, including the application of indexation to the Scheme.

**2. Description of decision**

- 2.1 To consider recommending Council to approve the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2026 / 2027, such Scheme to be on the same terms as the current Scheme, including provision for the Basic Allowance to be increased annually in line with the increase in the Consumer Prices Index (CPI) published in the February prior to the relevant financial year, with such indexation to apply up to 31 March 2029, unless the Scheme is amended during that period.

**3 Background**

- 3.1 The Council's Independent Remuneration Panel undertook a review of the Members' Allowances Scheme during 2024 and its report, dated December 2024, may be found at the link below:  
[Document.ashx](#)
- 3.2 The Panel's Report was considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 16 January 2025 and by Council at its meeting on 22 January 2025. Council agreed to the adoption of the Scheme for the financial year 2025 / 2026, which included provision for indexation to be applied to the Basic Allowance, in line with the increase in the Consumer Prices Index (CPI) published in February 2026. Council also agreed that indexation may be applied to the Basic Allowance up to 31 March 2029, based on the increase in the CPI published in the February prior to the commencement of the financial year concerned.
- 3.3 Where a local authority has regard to an index for the purpose of the annual adjustment of allowances, it must not rely on that index for longer than a period of four years before seeking a further recommendation from the Panel. However, until the expiry of the four-year period, if the Council does not propose any change in respect of the Scheme, other than application of the index, it will not be required to seek a Panel recommendation prior to approving the Scheme. The Council must still formally approve the Scheme for each financial year and therefore even if no change other than the application of the index is proposed, a report will be brought to Cabinet and Council on an annual basis, in the usual way, hence the reason for this report.

3.4 If the terms of the current Scheme, together with the continued indexation of the Basic Allowance, are adopted as the Scheme for the financial year 2026/2027, the level of allowances will be as shown in the Appendix to this Report.

#### **4 Reasons for decision**

4.1 The Council must make a new Scheme before the beginning of each financial year.

#### **5 Alternative Options**

5.1 There are no alternative options in respect of the adoption of a Scheme for 2026/2027, as this is a statutory requirement.

#### **6. Financial Implications**

6.1 The estimated cost of the indexation to be applied for 2026/2027 is £19,395 based upon an estimated increase of 3%. As set out earlier in the report the actual increase to apply will be in accordance with the CPI published in February 2026. The cost will be met from the within the revenue budget.

#### **Background papers**

Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel December 2024

Report of Cabinet to Council Meeting of 22 January 2025

## Appendix

<b>Type of Allowance</b>	<b>Amount per annum £</b>
<b>Basic Allowance</b>	
* plus an uplift to be applied in line with the increase in the CPI published in February 2026	8,620.08*
<b>Special Responsibility Allowances</b>	
Leader of the Council	37,667
Deputy Leader of the Council	25,111
Cabinet Member with Portfolio	20,716
Leader of an Opposition Group comprised of at least eight members (Where no Opposition Group has at least eight members, allowance to be paid to single largest Opposition Group or divided equally between Opposition Groups where the largest are of equal size, as applicable.)	5,000
<b>Chair of the following:</b>	
Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee	12,556
Thematic Scrutiny Committee	5,179
Area Committee	10,350
Licensing and Regulatory Committee	8,369
Planning and Highways Committee	8,369
<b>Vice Chair of the following:</b>	
Area Committee	6,277
Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee	6,277
Licensing and Regulatory Committee	4,184
Planning and Highways Committee	4,184
<b>Other Special Responsibility Allowances:</b>	
Membership of Adoption and Permanency Placement Panel	4,184
Fostering Panel	4,184
<b>Co-optees' Allowances</b>	
<b>Audit and Governance Committee</b>	
Chairman	5,000
Independent member	2,500

## Mayoral

Mayoral Allowance	12,000
Deputy Mayoral	6,000

### Carer's allowance

Actual expenditure up to a maximum of the equivalent of the current National Living Wage or National Minimum Wage hourly rate, as appropriate, dependent upon the age of the worker. The rate applicable shall be subject to automatic increases in line with uprating of the Adult National Living Wage and National Minimum Wage.

### Travel Allowances (for elected members and co-optees)

Motor Cycle allowance	24p per mile
Bicycle Allowance	20p per mile
Car Allowance	45p per mile for first 10,000 mile and 25p thereafter
Passenger Supplement 5p per mile for the passenger (not exceeding 4)	

The above rates match His Majesty's Revenues and Customs authorised mileage rates and will be updated when HMRC publishes revised allowances

### Subsistence Allowances (for elected members and co-optees)

In the case of absence from the usual place of residence for a continuous period which exceeds 4 hours but does not involve an overnight absence, subsistence is payable as per the table set out below:

Breakfast Allowance	£6.22
Lunch Allowance	£8.55
Tea Allowance	£3.37
Evening Meal Allowance	£10.59

The subsistence rates shall be reduced as shown below in respect of meals provided free of charge by any authority or body during the period to which the allowance relates.

Reduction of Subsistence Allowance for Meals Provided Free of charge:

Reduction for Breakfast provided	£6.22
Lunch provided	£8.55
Tea provided	£3.37
Dinner provided	£10.59

### **Overnight Accommodation**

The allowance will not be claimable as an allowance as such, rather reasonable costs of an overnight stay (including breakfast) will be met for business class accommodation (3 star or 4 star) within and outside of London. Unless there are exceptional circumstances the Council will book the accommodation direct selecting the most economic option available and utilising the established procurement arrangements in place.

Where exceptional circumstances exist, these will be approved in advance by the Director of Finance and reasonable costs will be reimbursed subject to submission of receipts.

Grant payable for Use of Rooms or Halls for Ward Surgeries	£15 maximum per occasion
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Telephone Calls Allowance	£15 per quarter
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Broadband – actual costs to be reimbursed up to a maximum of £15 per month with a contribution from each Member of £3 per month where private use is made for the facility.

