

MEMBERS ALLOWANCES SCHEME

MEMBERS ALLOWANCE SCHEME 2025/26

The basic Members' allowance is £5,750

Special Responsibility Allowances are as follows:

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| Leader of the Council | 21,692.00 |
| Deputy Leader of the Council | 12,239.00 |
| Leader of Main Opposition Group | 7,017.00 |
| Leaders of Minority Opposition Groups | 928.00 |
| Cabinet Members with Portfolios | 9,329.00 |
| Chair of Policy & Performance Improvement Committee | 9,329.00 |
| Vice-Chair of Policy & Performance Improvement Committee | 4,664.00 |
| Chair of Planning Committee | 6,687.00 |
| Vice-Chair of Planning Committee | 1,661.00 |
| Chair of Licensing & General Purposes Committees* | 3,808.00 |
| Vice-Chair of Licensing & General Purposes Committees* | 949.00 |
| Chair of Audit & Governance Committee* | 6,584.00 |
| Vice-Chair of Audit & Governance Committee* | 1,630.00 |

**Subject to amendment given changes made to these committees in July 2025.*

1. There is no limit as to the number of special responsibility allowances paid to individual Members, except Opposition Group Leader payments will not be made if the relevant Member is a Cabinet Member with portfolio, Leader or Deputy Leader.
2. For the purposes of qualifying for a Main Opposition Group Leader or Minority Opposition Group special responsibility allowance a political group on the Council needs to comprise of at least four Members. The Main Opposition Group is the largest Group for which no Member is a Cabinet Member with Portfolio, Leader or Deputy Leader. A Minority Opposition Group is any other Group.
3. A childcare and dependent carers' allowance of an hourly rate up to a maximum level of the National Living Wage will be payable for costs actually incurred, or more in exceptional circumstances at the discretion of the Section 151 Officer provided that it is evidenced based.
4. In the event of any part year entitlement due to elections, suspension or changes in special responsibility, payments will be subject to a daily calculation of entitlement.
5. The travel and subsistence expenses for Members be the same as the casual user rate and subsistence scheme for officers.

Further notes on travel expenses are detailed below:

- i. Members may claim for travel expenses for attending physical group meetings which are convened for district council business and held at Castle House or elsewhere in the district.
 - ii. Members can claim travel expenses for attending Castle House on council business when appropriate and meetings cannot be facilitated remotely.
 - iii. An allowance of £8 is payable to members of the Planning Committee for attending site visits.
6. Any Member may, by way of notice in writing, forgo all or part of any allowances.
7. The Basic Allowance and Special Responsibility Allowances are indexed to the annual percentage salary increase for local government staff (at spinal column 45) to be implemented from the start of the municipal year for which it is applicable.

This scheme came into effect on 1 April 2025

Notes: The following annual payments are made outside of the Members' Allowances Scheme:

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| Council's Appointed Independent Persons | £1,500 |
| Chair of the Council | £3,360 |
| Vice-Chair of the Council | £670 |