

# **BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL**

## **MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME**

The Brighton & Hove City Council, in exercise of the powers conferred by the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) Regulations 2003, hereby makes the following Scheme:

1. This Scheme may be cited as the Brighton & Hove City Council Members' Allowances Scheme 2012 and shall have effect on and from 18 May 2012 unless stated otherwise.

2. In this Scheme,

“the council” means Brighton & Hove City Council;

“councillor” means a Member of the Brighton & Hove City Council who is a councillor;

“co-opted member” means a member of a committee or sub-committee of the council who is not a member of the authority;

“total estimated allowances” means the aggregate of the amounts estimated by the Responsible Finance Officer, at a time when a payment of Basic Allowance or Special Responsibility Allowance is made, to be payable under this Scheme in relation to the relevant year, and for this purpose any election under paragraph 11 shall be disregarded;

“year” means the 12 months ending with 31 March.

3. **Basic Allowance**

3.1 Subject to paragraphs 10 and 11, for each year a Basic Allowance of £11,463 shall be paid to each councillor.

4. **Special Responsibility Allowances**

4.1 For each year a Special Responsibility Allowance shall be paid to those councillors who hold the special responsibilities in relation to the council that are specified in Schedule 1 to this Scheme. These payments came into effect on and from 18 May 2012.

4.2 Where a councillor holds more than one position of responsibility, only one Special Responsibility Allowance shall be paid, such an allowance being the higher or highest of the relevant allowances.

4.3 Subject to paragraph 11 and 12, the amount of each such allowance shall be the amount specified against that special responsibility in that schedule.

5. **Attendance Allowance**

5.1 No Attendance Allowance shall be payable.

## **6. Travel, Subsistence and Dependants' Carers Allowances**

6.1 Travel, Subsistence and Dependants' Carers' Allowances shall be paid to councillors and co-opted members in accordance with Schedule 2 to the Scheme.

## **7. Pensions**

7.1 All eligible members of the Council may elect to join the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) with effect from the first day of the month following the Council's receipt of the pensions option form.

7.2 Where members elect to join the Scheme, both the Basic Allowance and any Special Responsibility Allowance to which they may be entitled or may become entitled, shall be treated as amounts in respect of which a pension is payable.

7.3 The Local Government Pension Scheme and the Discretionary Compensation (Local Authority Members in England) Regulations 2003 shall apply to members who elect to join the LGPS.

## **8. Co-optee's Allowance**

8.1 For each year a Co-optee's Allowance shall be paid to the Chairman of the Audit & Standards Committee provided the post is held by an Independent Member.

8.2 For each year a Co-optee's Allowance shall be paid to the Deputy Chairman of the Audit & Standards Committee provided the post is held by an Independent Member.

## **9. Withholding of allowances**

9.1 Where payment of any allowance is due or has already been made in respect of any period during which the member concerned is

(a) suspended or partially suspended from his/her responsibilities or duties as a member of the authority in accordance with Part III of the Local Government Act 2000, or regulations made under that Part; or

(b) ceases to be a member of the authority; or

(c) is in any other way not entitled to receive the allowance in respect of that period,

the authority may withhold the payment of an allowance for that period or, as the case may be, require that such part of the allowance already paid as relates to any such period be repaid to the authority.

9.2 The term "member" in this paragraph covers both councillors and co-opted members

9.3 Decisions as to the withholding or repayment of allowances under the above provisions shall be taken by the Standards (Local Determinations) Hearing Panel.

## 10. **Renunciation**

- 10.1 A councillor or a co-opted member may by notice in writing given to the Responsible Finance Officer elect to forego any part of his/her entitlement to an allowance under this Scheme.

## 11. **Part-Year Entitlement**

- 11.1 Subject to paragraph 11.7, the provisions of this paragraph shall have effect to regulate the entitlements of a councillor to Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances where, in the course of a year, this Scheme is amended or that councillor becomes, or ceases to be a councillor, or accepts or relinquishes a special responsibility in respect of which a Special Responsibility Allowance is payable.

- 11.2 If an amendment to this Scheme changes the amount to which a councillor is entitled by way of a Basic Allowance or a Special Responsibility Allowance, then in relation to each of the periods:

- (a) beginning with the year and ending with the day before that on which the first amendment in that year takes effect; or
- (b) beginning with the day on which an amendment takes effect and ending with the day before that on which the next amendment takes effect, or (if none) with the year,

the entitlement to such an allowance shall be to the payment of such part of the amount of the allowance under this Scheme as it has effect during the relevant period as bears to the whole the same proportion as the number of days in the period bears to the number of days in the year.

- 11.3 Where the term of office of a councillor begins or ends otherwise than at the beginning or end of a year, the entitlement of that councillor to a Basic Allowance shall be to the payment to such part of the Basic Allowance as bears to the whole the same proportion as the number of days during which his term of office subsists bears to the number of days in that year.

- 11.4 Where the Scheme is amended as mentioned in sub-paragraph 11.2, and the term of office of a councillor does not subsist throughout the period mentioned in sub-paragraph 11.2(a), the entitlement of any such councillor to a Basic Allowance shall be to the payment of such part of the Basic Allowance referable to each such period (ascertained in accordance with that sub-paragraph) as bears to the whole the same proportion as the number of days during which his term of office as a councillor subsists bears to the number of days in that period.

- 11.5 Where a councillor has during part of, but not throughout, a year such special responsibilities as entitle him or her to a Special Responsibility Allowance, that councillor's entitlement shall be to payment of such part of that allowance as bears to the whole the same proportion as the number of days during which he has such special responsibilities bears to the number of days in that year.

- 11.6 Where this Scheme is amended as mentioned in sub-paragraph 11.2, and a councillor has during part, but does not have throughout the whole, of any period mentioned in sub-paragraph 11.2(a) of that paragraph any special responsibilities as entitle him or her to a Special Responsibility Allowance, that councillor's entitlement shall be to payment of such part of the allowance referable to each such period (ascertained in accordance with that sub-paragraph) as bears to the whole the same proportion as the number of days in that period during which he or she has such special responsibilities bears to the number of days in that period.
- 11.7 The provisions of this paragraph, subject to necessary modifications, shall apply to Co-optees' Allowances as if the reference to a "member" included a co-opted member.

## **12. Claims and Payments**

- 12.1 Payments shall be made in respect of Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances, subject to sub-paragraph 11.2, in instalments of one-twelfth of the amount specified in this Scheme on the last day of each month (or the last working day before that day if it is not a working day).
- 12.2 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 than the amount to which, by virtue of paragraph 11.6, he or she is entitled, the payment shall be restricted to such amount as will ensure that no more is paid than the amount to which he or she is entitled.
- 12.3 The provisions of this paragraph shall apply to Co-optees' Allowances in the same way as they apply to Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances.

*This Scheme was approved by Full Council at its meeting on 26 April 2012 and takes effect from 18 May 2012 unless stated otherwise.*

# SCHEDULE 1

## Special Responsibility Allowances

<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>SRA (£)</b>
Leader of the Council	28,758
Deputy Leader of the Council (x2)	17,254
<b>Chairs of Committees</b>	
Policy & Resources	10,927
Adult Care & Health	10,927
Children & Young People	10,927
Economic Development & Culture	10,927
Environment & Sustainability	10,927
Housing	10,927
Transport	10,927
<b>Chairs of Regulatory Committees</b>	
Planning	10,927
Licensing (dual role)	8,626
Audit & Standards	8,626
<b>Chairs of Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committees</b>	
Overview & Scrutiny	8,626
Health & Wellbeing OSC	8,626
<b>Deputy Chairs of Committees</b>	
Policy & Resources (with responsibility for Finance & Resources)	8,626
Adult Care & Health	2,156
Children & Young People	2,156
Economic Development & Culture	2,156
Environment & Sustainability	2,156
Housing	2,156
Transport	2,156
<b>Deputy Chairs of Regulatory Committees</b>	
Planning	3,594
Licensing (dual role)	3,594
Audit & Standards	2,156
<b>Other positions of additional responsibility</b>	
Leader of the Opposition Group	13,803
Deputy Leader of the Opposition Group (x2 max)	7,188
Opposition Spokesperson (x4)	2,156
Leader of the Minority Group	7,188

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**Note :**

- The payment of allowances to the Leadership shall apply as follows:
  - the Leader of the Council and two Deputy Leaders, or
  - The Leader of the Council and one Deputy Leader
- A maximum of two Deputy Leaders of the Opposition have been included in the Members' Allowances Scheme
- The remits and responsibilities of the Chairs of the two Overview & Scrutiny Committees may change without requiring amendment to the Members' Allowances Scheme.
- Where a councillor holds more than one position of Special Responsibility, only one Special Responsibility Allowance shall be paid and this is the higher or the highest of the relevant allowances.

## **Co-optee's Allowances**

**Chairman**

Independent Chairman of Audit & Standards Committee	4,313
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**Deputy Chairman**

Independent Deputy Chairman of Audit & Standards Committee (if the post is held by an independent member)	548
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*Special Responsibility Allowances and Co-optees' Allowances are payable from 18 May 2012.*

## **SCHEDULE 2**

### **Approved Duties**

Brighton & Hove City Council specifies the following as approved duties for the purpose of the payment of Travel, Subsistence and Dependants' Carers' Allowances.

1. Attendance at :
  - (a) The council, or any of its committees and sub-committees.
  - (b) The bodies to which the council makes appointments or nominations at either Annual Council or Policy & Resources Committee including any committee or sub-committee of such a body.
  - (c) The following meetings, the holding of which is authorised by the council, or any of its committees or sub-committees, or by any joint committee (or sub-committee thereof) of the council and any other authority, provided that it is a meeting to which councillors of at least two political groups of the council have been invited:
    - i) Meetings of the council's formally established consultative fora and partnerships, scrutiny review panels and select committees.
    - ii) Meetings with outside bodies in pursuit of economic development objectives which have been authorised by the council, or any of its committees or sub-committees.
    - iii) Councillors' tours of the authority's area which have been authorised by the council, or any of its committees or sub-committees.
    - iv) Internal training sessions organised and facilitated by officers of the council for the induction of councillors or for the better performance of their duties and responsibilities or to enable better understanding of the council's functions.
2. The following meetings of associations of authorities of which this authority is a member:

The Local Government Association and its committees
3. Any other duty, or class of duty approved by any committee, or officer of the council acting under delegated powers, such duty or class of duty to be for the purposes of or in connection with the discharge of the functions of the council, or its committees or sub-committees.

Payments in respect of the above approved duties shall be paid in accordance with the following rates:

## **A. Travel and Subsistence Allowance**

### **Public Transport**

Actual standard class rail fares (first class travel will only be reimbursed with prior agreement where councillors have to work on the journey).

Long distance travel undertaken by car will be reimbursed at the rail fare rate where this is a cheaper option.

Councillors purchasing their own rail tickets should provide their receipt or ticket when claiming reimbursement.

For local travel councillors may choose:

#### **Either**

- (a) an annual saver ticket valid for Brighton & Hove buses where bus fares would otherwise be payable (bus travel is free for those aged 60 and over travelling after 9.00am and the disabled),

#### **Or**

- (b) a combination of reimbursement of cycle mileage and (ticketed) bus travel

#### **Or**

- (c) reimbursement of cycle mileage and passes to the Lanes and Hove Town Hall Car Parks

### **Mileage Allowances**

Motor mileage for attendance at approved council duties is payable for travel **outside** the city boundaries only, except in exceptional circumstances where the use of taxis/personal transport shall be permitted with the agreement of the Monitoring Officer for example by Members who have a disability or injury, or former mayors undertaking mayoral duties on behalf of the Mayor. Taxis may also be claimed in cases of urgency, meetings outside normal working hours (8.30am-6.30pm) or where there is no public transport available. Receipts must be provided. Motor mileage within the city's boundaries is deemed to be covered by the Basic Allowance.

All mileage is paid at Inland Revenue advisory rates and these will automatically be updated by the council to reflect any changes the Inland Revenue introduces. The current rates are -

<b>Cars</b>	45p per mile
<b>Supplement for Passengers</b>	5p per mile for each official passenger, up to a maximum of 4 passengers
<b>Motor Cycle Allowance</b>	24p per mile
<b>Cycle Allowance</b>	20p per mile



In addition, those Members opting for either (b) or (c) above may also take advantage of either the council's Bike Loan Scheme or the new Tax-free Bike Scheme and they will have access to the showering and secure lock-up facilities at three sites across the city.

### **Day Subsistence**

Subsistence for approved council duties is payable for attendances **outside** the city boundaries only, except in exceptional circumstances. Where refreshments are not provided, subsistence costs within the city's boundaries are deemed to be covered by the Basic Allowance. Where claims can be made, eligibility is based on the time of day meals are taken and time away from home, as follows: -

Breakfast allowance	-	more than four hours' absence before 11.00am	£6.50
Lunch allowance	-	more than four hours' absence including 12 noon – 2.00pm	£8.50
Tea allowance	-	more than four hours' absence including 3.00pm – 6.00pm	£3.50
Evening Meal allowance	-	more than four hours' absence ending after 7.00pm	£15.00

**Receipts should be provided for all subsistence claimed.**

### **Overnight Subsistence**

Where an overnight stay is required, overnight subsistence may be claimed up to a maximum of:

London/Conference Rate	not exceeding	£114.00
Standard Rate	not exceeding	£100.00

The above sums are for all subsistence received over a 24-hour period.

### **Meals on Trains**

When main meals are taken on trains during a period for which there is an entitlement to day subsistence, the reasonable cost of the meals (including VAT) may be reimbursed in full, within the limits specified below. Where the cost of meals taken on trains is reimbursed, the rate of day subsistence allowance for that period of duty shall not exceed the maximum payable if the period of absence from the usual place of residence were reduced by four hours in respect of each meal taken.

The limitations on reimbursement are:

- (i) Absence of more than four but not more than eight hours, the cost of one main meal.
- (ii) Absence of more than eight hours but not more than 12 hours, the cost of two main meals.
- (iii) Absence of more than 12 hours, the cost of three main meals.

Where the cost of meals taken on trains is reimbursed, the rate of day subsistence for that period of duty shall not exceed the maximum payable if the period of absence from the usual place of residence were reduced by 4 hours in respect of each meal taken.

NOTE:

1. The council will not reimburse the cost of any alcohol purchased.
2. With effect from 1 September 2007 motor mileage within the authority's boundaries can only be claimed in exceptional circumstances and councillors should either use the bus or cycle within the city.
3. With effect from 1 September 2007 subsistence within the authority's boundaries can only be claimed in exceptional circumstances.

*Car mileage rates were revised from 1 April 2011. All other travel and subsistence rates apply from 28 November 2003 and these have been re-affirmed by Full Council on 21 October 2011.*

## **B. Dependants' Carers' Allowance**

Dependants' Carers' Allowance (for children and adult dependants) may be paid retrospectively to either councillor or care provider when a councillor attends any of the approved duties identified in Schedule 2 to this Scheme and incurs costs for care provision.

This claims-based scheme is subject to tax and national insurance deductions at personal rates (liability falling to whoever receives the payment).

### Childcare

Eligible councillors may claim no more than the actual amount paid for childcare provision, up to a maximum of £7.00 per hour for a single child, or up to a total of £9.00 per hour for two or more children, provided the appropriate form is completed and the relevant receipts are attached.

Up to a total of one hour travelling time may be added to the claim (where applicable) to enable the councillor to travel to and from meetings, provided the child/children remain with the carer for the duration.

Childcare costs may be claimed for children until the Saturday following the 1 September after their 15<sup>th</sup> birthday in line with the government's eligibility criteria for Working Tax Credits.

The restriction on the use of household members for caring (family and otherwise) applies as a matter of good practice in line with other local authorities.

The minimum age for any carer should be 18 years.

The annual cap for childcare is set at £1,200 pa per councillor.

### Dependant Care

This allowance is payable for both children with severe disabilities and also dependent adult relatives living in the councillor's home and for whom the councillor is directly responsible. It applies to the care of dependants on social or medical grounds.

Eligible councillors may claim no more than the actual amount paid for specialist dependant care up to a maximum of £7.50 per hour, provided the appropriate form is completed and the relevant receipts are attached.

Up to a total of one hour travelling time may be added to the claim (where applicable) to enable the councillor to travel to and from meetings, provided the dependant remains with the carer for the duration.

The minimum age for any carer should be 18 years.

The annual cap for dependant care is set at £1,200 pa per councillor.

*The Dependants' Carers' Allowance was revised at Full Council on 20 October 2011.*

### SCHEDULE 3

#### Other Allowances

*NB These allowances which do not form part of the Members' Allowances Scheme are included here for information only :*

#### Mayoral Allowances

Mayor's Allowance for 2012/13 £12,572 pa

Deputy Mayor's Allowance for 2012/13 £3,518 pa

*The Mayoral Allowances were approved by Full Council on 28 April 2005 and have been uplifted by inflation each year since, following the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel.*

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Payments to Former Mayors £35 per  
duty

*This is currently a flat rate allowance which is not subject to inflationary increases, although it is subject to further review as required by the Independent Remuneration Panel.*

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#### Independent Remuneration Panel

Members of the Independent Remuneration Panel (5) £528 pa each