

## **MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME**

The Surrey County Council, in exercise of the powers conferred by The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003, hereby makes the following amended scheme:

### **INTRODUCTION**

1. This scheme may be cited as the Surrey County Council Members' Allowances Scheme, and shall have effect for the year commencing 1 April 2024 and until otherwise amended.
2. In this scheme,
  - 'councillor' means a member of the Surrey County Council who is a councillor;
  - 'year' means the 12 months ending with 31 March.
3. The scheme should be read in conjunction with the Guide to Members' Allowances.

### **BASIC ALLOWANCE**

4. Subject to paragraph 18, for each year a Basic Allowance of £14,160 shall be paid to each councillor.

### **SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY ALLOWANCES**

5. (1) For each year, a Special Responsibility Allowance shall be paid to those councillors who hold the special responsibilities in relation to the authority that are specified in Schedule 1 to this scheme.
  - (2) The amount of each such allowance shall be the amount specified against that special responsibility in Schedule 1.
  - (3) No councillor shall receive more than one Special Responsibility Allowance. Where a councillor performs more than one special responsibility specified in Schedule 1, they will be entitled to the Special Responsibility Allowance which is the highest in value.

### **ATTENDANCE ALLOWANCES**

6. No Attendance Allowances shall be paid.

## **TRAVELLING AND SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCE**

7. Travelling and Subsistence Allowances will be paid for 'Approved Duties' as set out in Schedule 2 to this Scheme.

## **CO-OPTEEES' ALLOWANCE**

8. No co-optees allowances are payable. However, co-opted members may claim travel expenses.

## **CHILDCARE AND DEPENDENT CARERS' EXPENSES**

9. The Council will reimburse Members for expenditure incurred in providing child care arrangements for children for whom they have parental responsibility to enable them to attend an approved duty subject to a number of requirements specified in the Guide to Members' Allowances.
10. The Council also provides for the reimbursement of expenditure incurred by Members in providing care for dependant adults or children who are frail and/or disabled at a rate based on actual cost up to a specified limit.
11. The amount which may be claimed is the actual costs incurred by a councillor in order to participate in approved duties as specified in the Guide to Members' Allowances.
12. Councillors may also claim any additional costs incurred where they can demonstrate that the cost was wholly and necessarily incurred in order to participate in approved duties as specified in the Guide to Members' Allowances.

## **HYBRID WORKING PAYMENT**

13. From May 2025, the Council provides Councillors with a £300 one-off payment upon election for bespoke IT solutions. The payment covers the whole term of office and is not repeated should a member be re-elected. Current Councillors may claim the payment in advance of the 2025 elections.

## **PENSIONS**

14. From 1 April 2014 councillors in England were unable to join the LGPS. Those councillors in England who were in the scheme on the 31 March 2014 were able to remain in the scheme until the end of that council term in 2017.

## **RENUNCIATION**

15. A councillor may by notice in writing given to the Member Services Manager forego any part of his/her entitlement to an allowance under this Scheme.

## **PART-YEAR ENTITLEMENTS**

16. (1) If an amendment to this Scheme is made which affects payment of a Basic Allowance or a Special Responsibility Allowance in the year in which the payment is made, a councillor will be entitled to payment at the revised rate from the date on which the change was approved (unless otherwise stated).
- (2) If a councillor becomes or ceases to be eligible for a Basic or Special Responsibility Allowance during the course of a year, the entitlement will be adjusted by reference to the number of days for which entitlement existed relative to the number of days in that year.

## **CLAIMS AND PAYMENTS**

17. A claim for travelling and subsistence allowances under this scheme shall be made in writing within two months of the date of the meeting in respect of which the entitlement to the allowance arises.
18. Subject to any in-year amendments to the Scheme or changes in entitlement, Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances will be paid in instalments of one-twelfth of the amount specified in this Scheme on the last Thursday of each month.

## **FOREGOING OF ALLOWANCES**

19. The Foregoing Scheme was made pursuant to the authority given by the County Council at its meeting held on 24 May 2022.

**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL  
SCHEME OF MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES**

**SCHEDULE 1**

A Special Responsibility Allowance will be paid to those Members of the Council/Independent Representatives who hold the following offices:

<b>Type of Allowance</b>	<b>Allowance (£)</b>
Basic Allowance	14,160
Leader	48,980
Deputy Leader	31,750
Chairman of the Council	20,530
Vice-Chairman of the Council	7,420
Cabinet Member	25,640
Deputy Cabinet Member	11,380
Select Committee Chairman	11,410
Select Committee Task Group Leads	1,720
Planning and Regulatory Committee Chairman	13,690
Audit and Governance Chairman	11,410
Surrey Pension Fund Committee Chairman	11,410
Opposition Leaders	13,690 (total amount, divided between two posts proportionally)
Members of Adoption and Fostering Panels	120 per session attended plus travel expenses

If a Member qualifies for a Special Responsibility Allowance for more than one post, only the allowance which is highest in value may be claimed.

The Basic Allowance and Special Responsibility Allowances shall be adjusted annually on 1 April commensurate with the Consumer Price Index at the previous September. This provision applies for a maximum of period of four years from 1 April 2024, at which point the Independent Remuneration Panel shall reconsider the matter.

## **SCHEDULE 2**

### **Approved Duties**

Travelling and subsistence allowances are payable in respect of the approved duties listed in Appendix 1.

**APPROVED DUTIES**

Approved duties are defined as follows:-

- (a) a meeting of the Council, the Cabinet (or a Cabinet Member meeting), any committee, or any formally constituted task groups or panels appointed by the Council, the Cabinet or any committees;
- (b) any other meeting (including, for example, a site visit or tour or induction or training seminar) convened by the Council, the Cabinet or a committee, or convened by the Chairman of the Council, the Cabinet or committee acting on their behalf (but not a meeting convened by an officer of the Council), provided that it is a meeting to which members of at least two political groups have been invited (except in the case of meetings relating to the work of a local committee which consists of a single political group);
- (c) attendance by the Chairman of the Cabinet or a committee at a meeting of any Task Group of the Cabinet or that committee of which he/she is not a member;
- (d) attendance by a non-member of the Cabinet, a committee or task group in the following circumstances:
  - (i) an item on the agenda in which they have a local interest and on which, with the Chairman's consent, they would wish to speak;
  - (ii) an Original Motion in their name which stands referred to the Cabinet or a committee under Standing Orders;
  - (iii) an item on the agenda of which they have given notice under Standing Orders; or
  - (iv) a question of which they have given notice under Standing Orders.

and where advance notice has been given to the Support Services Manager

- (e) attendance by an individual or named group of Members especially appointed by the Cabinet or a committee or task group to examine a particular problem or site or to meet representatives of other organisations or individuals as part of an agreed programme of activity;

- (f) attendance by Members at local briefing meetings at the invitation of an officer of the Council, provided that members of at least two political groups have been invited (except in the case of meetings relating to the work of a local committee which consists of a single political group);
- (g) attendance by Members at public consultation meetings on significant matters of policy or service change, provided that members of at least two political groups have been invited (except in the case of meetings relating to the work of a local committee which consists of a single political group);
- (h) attendance by Members at joint briefings on the business to be transacted at committee meetings, organised by officers under the Member/Officer Protocol, provided that members of at least two political groups have been invited (except in the case of meetings relating to the work of a local committee which consists of a single political group);
- (i) attendance at County Hall or elsewhere by -
  - (i) the Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Council
  - (ii) the chairmen and vice-chairmen of committees
  - (iii) Cabinet Members

for the purpose of agenda planning and 'call-over' prior to a meeting; conferring with officers; visiting County establishments; inspecting sites; or being engaged in a similar manner directly in connection with the discharge of any of the functions -

- (i) of their respective offices; or
  - (ii) of their respective committees.
- (j) meetings held in connection with Local Ombudsman investigations; provided that they are meetings to which members of at least two political groups have been invited (except in the case of meetings relating to the work of a local committee which consists of a single political group);
- (k) a meeting of the Local Government Association, or of any committee, or other Member group of the Association to which a Member of the Council has been duly appointed;
- (l) attendance as a duly appointed County Council representative or nominee at meetings of those bodies listed on the Council's website.

- (m) visits by Members to County Council establishments including children's homes, other social services' residential establishments and special schools in accordance with a pre-determined rota;
- (n) meetings between leaders of the political groups;
- (o) meetings of parish and town councils and residents associations;
- (p) attendance at official openings at the specific invitation of the Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the County Council;
- (q) attendance at formally arranged meetings with officers or representatives of external organisations to discuss a significant issue relating to a County Council service or affecting the Member's Electoral Division.
- (r) Attendance at a meeting with a constituent from the Member's own Division in direct response to a request about County Council services.

**TRAVELLING EXPENSES****(a) MOTOR CYCLES**

24p per mile

**(b) MOTOR CARS**

45p per mile for the first 10,000 miles

25p per mile for mileage over 10,000

An additional claim of 5p per mile may be made for each car passenger (not exceeding four) for whom travel expenses would otherwise be payable.

**(c) Electric Cars**

45p per mile

This allowance is only claimable in relation to the use of fully electric cars.

**(d) TAXI FARES**

Actual fare and a reasonable gratuity for travel by taxi. A taxi should only be used in cases of urgency or where no public transport is available.

**(e) HIRED MOTOR VEHICLES (OTHER THAN A TAXI OR MINICAB)**

Reimbursement may be claimed not exceeding the rate allowed for the use of a Member's own car.

**(f) TRAVEL BY PUBLIC TRANSPORT**

The actual expenditure may be claimed but Claims for reimbursement should normally be restricted to the cheapest available fares for the chosen mode of transport. Claims for first class travel may only be made if no alternative ordinary fares were available at the time of booking or where exceptional circumstances apply.

**(g) TRAVEL ABROAD**

Where travel abroad is necessary, for example for meetings or site visits, the officers involved will make the necessary travel

arrangements. In any circumstances where individual Members need to travel abroad and officers are not directly involved in setting up the visit, they should obtain approval from the Leader of the County Council and contact the Democratic Services Support Services Manager, who will make the necessary arrangements. Bookings for travel abroad will normally be made using the cheapest appropriate available fare.

(h) **CYCLE ALLOWANCE**

The current rate for cycling allowance is 20p per mile.

## SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCES

### DAY SUBSISTENCE

1. Actual subsistence costs incurred can be claimed up to the values specified below and receipts must be provided.
2. Breakfast Allowance (more than 4 hours away from normal place of residence before 11.00am e.g. 7 am - 11 am) **£5.30**;
3. Lunch Allowance (more than 4 hours away from the normal place of residence including a lunchtime between 12 noon and 2.00pm e.g. 10 am - 2 pm; 12 pm - 4 pm) **£7.25**;
4. Tea Allowance (more than 4 hours away from the normal place of residence including the period 3.00pm to 6.00pm e.g. 2 pm - 6 pm) **£2.90**;
5. Evening Meal Allowance (more than 4 hours away from the normal place of residence ending after 7.00pm e.g. 4 pm - 8 pm; 5 pm - 9 pm) **£9.00**.

### OVERNIGHT SUBSISTENCE

6. For absence overnight (deemed to cover a continuous period of 24 hours) from the usual place of residence, **£85.80**, or where the absence overnight is in London or for attending one of the approved conferences, **£97.85**.
7. Overnight subsistence may only be claimed by Members to reimburse them for the cost of hotel accommodation and meals when attending one of the approved conferences, and up to the maximum rate set out in the guide.

If overnight allowance is claimed the Member may not claim allowance for meals which are provided as part of the overnight allowance e.g. breakfast, evening meal etc.

In most cases where the Member attends an approved conference, the booking arrangements are made by Democratic Services and the invoices will be paid directly by them on the Member's behalf. It will therefore not usually be necessary to claim overnight subsistence.

**PARENTAL LEAVE POLICY****Parental Leave Policy for Members****Introduction**

1. This Policy sets out Members' entitlement to maternity, paternity, shared parental and adoption leave, caring for children receiving neonatal care and relevant allowances.
2. The objective of the policy is to ensure that Members are able to take appropriate leave at the time of birth or adoption and that reasonable and adequate arrangements are in place to provide cover for portfolio-holders and others in receipt of Special Responsibility Allowances (SRA) during any period of leave taken.
3. Improved provision for new parents will contribute towards increasing the diversity of experience, age and background of local authority councillors. It will also assist with retaining experienced councillors – particularly women – and making public office more accessible to individuals who might otherwise feel excluded from it.

**Leave Periods**

4. Members giving birth are entitled to up to 6 months maternity leave from the due date, with the option to extend up to 52 weeks by agreement if required.
5. In addition, where the birth is premature, the Member is entitled to take leave during the period between the date of the birth and the due date in addition to the 6 months' period. In such cases any leave taken to cover prematurity of 28 days or less shall be deducted from any extension beyond the initial 6 months.
6. In exceptional circumstances, and only in cases of prematurity of 29 days or more, additional leave may be taken by agreement, and such exceptional leave shall not be deducted from the total 52-week entitlement.

7. Members shall be entitled to take a minimum of 2 weeks paternity leave if they are the biological father or nominated carer of their partner/spouse following the birth of their child(ren).
8. A Member who has made Shared Parental Leave arrangements through their employment is requested to advise the Council of these at the earliest possible opportunity. Every effort will be made to replicate such arrangements in terms of leave from Council.
9. Where both parents are Members 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.
10. A Member who adopts a child through an approved adoption agency shall be entitled to take up to six months adoption leave from the date of placement, with the option to extend up to 52 weeks by agreement if required.
11. Any Member who takes maternity, shared parental or adoption leave retains their legal duty under the Local Government Act 1972 to attend a meeting of the Council within a six-month period unless the Council Meeting agrees to an extended leave of absence prior to the expiration of that six-month period. However, councils are encouraged to show understanding and flexibility towards councillors who may require extended periods of absence due to parental responsibilities, including caring for children receiving neonatal care.
12. Any Member intending to take maternity, paternity, shared parental or adoption leave will be responsible for ensuring that they comply with the relevant notice requirements of the Council, both in terms of the point at which the leave starts and the point at which they return.
13. Any Member taking leave should put in place arrangements for a neighbouring member to cover local casework. Democratic Services should be advised of these arrangements so that the website can be updated.
14. Any Member taking leave should ensure that they respond to reasonable requests for information as promptly as possible, and

that they keep officers and colleagues informed and updated in relation to intended dates of return and requests for extension of leave.

### **Basic Allowance**

15. All Members shall continue to receive their Basic Allowance in full whilst on maternity, paternity or adoption leave.

### **Special Responsibility Allowances**

16. Members entitled to a Special Responsibility Allowance shall continue to receive their allowance in full in the case of maternity, paternity, shared parental or adoption leave.
17. Where a replacement is appointed to cover the period of absence that person shall receive an SRA on a pro rata basis for the period of the temporary appointment.
18. The payment of Special Responsibility Allowances, whether to the primary SRA holder or a replacement, during a period of maternity, paternity, shared parental or adoption leave shall continue for a period of six months, or until the date of the next Annual Meeting of the Council, or until the date when the member taking leave is up for election (whichever is soonest). At such a point, the position will be reviewed, and will be subject to a possible extension for a further six-month period.
19. Should a Member appointed to replace the member on maternity, paternity, shared parental or adoption leave already hold a remunerated position, the ordinary rules relating to payment of more than one Special Responsibility Allowances shall apply.
20. Unless the Member taking leave is removed from their post at an Annual General Meeting of the Council whilst on leave, or unless the Party to which they belong loses control of the Council during their leave period, they shall return at the end of their leave period to the same post, or to an alternative post with equivalent status and remuneration which they held before the leave began.

### **Resigning from Office and Elections**

21. If a Member decides not to return at the end of their maternity, paternity, shared parental or adoption leave they must notify the

Council at the earliest possible opportunity. All allowances will cease from the effective resignation date.

22. 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