

# CONSTITUTION OF THE LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON

## PART 6A

### SCHEME OF MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES 2024/25

- 1 The Council has adopted a scheme of Members' allowances that complies with the Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 (No. 1021) as amended and having considered the recommendations of the London Councils' Independent Panel 2023 on the Remuneration of Members in London.

The Croydon scheme provides for:

- Every Member (for clarity, does not include the directly elected Mayor) to receive a basic allowance which shall be inclusive of all travel costs incurred within the Borough;
- Members appointed by the Annual Council, or subsequently by virtue of the office they hold, shall receive a Special Responsibility Allowance;
- No Member shall receive more than one Special Responsibility Allowance;
- Out-of-Borough travel and subsistence allowances shall be reviewed by the General Purposes Committee and paid in line with levels set by the Committee, unless already prescribed by Statutory Instrument or Circular. Costs related to travel and subsistence outside the Borough only when incurred undertaking an approved duty shall be eligible for reimbursement;
- The scheme for reimbursement of costs associated with providing childcare or care for a dependent relative incurred by a Member when undertaking an approved duty is set out in Appendix A and it shall be reviewed periodically by the General Purposes Committee;
- Any Member may elect to forego all or part of the Basic Allowance and if appropriate the Special Responsibility Allowance, to which they are entitled, by writing to the Monitoring Officer. Otherwise, all allowances due to each Member shall be paid automatically each calendar month on the basis of one 12<sup>th</sup> of the total;
- Members do not have access to the Local Government Pension Scheme;
- The scheme does not provide for the payment of any allowances to co-optees, with the exception of the Independent Chair of Audit and Governance Committee (who receives a special responsibility allowance but no other allowances as a 'co-optee allowance'). Where a co-opted

member is suspended or partially suspended from their responsibilities or duties any co-optees' allowance payable to them in respect of the responsibilities or duties from which they are suspended or partially suspended may be withheld by the authority.

- Members shall only be entitled to a pro-rata payment in respect of a term of office which is not for a complete year, which would include any job share arrangements;
- The term of office of the Independent Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee is four years and the allowance is payable annually under this Scheme. They shall only be entitled to a pro-rata payment in respect of the annual allowance for any period which is not served as a complete year.
- In all other respects, the scheme of allowances as set out here shall remain in place until such time as the Council decides otherwise.

2 The respective levels of Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances payable from April 2023 are set out in Appendix B.

3 The Civic Mayor and Deputy Civic Mayor shall receive allowances for expenses in accordance with relevant legislation in relation to the discharge of their ceremonial and other duties. The level of expenses paid to the Civic Mayor and Deputy Civic Mayor are as shown in Appendix B.

4 Unless agreed otherwise by Full Council that no uplift will apply, the level of the Basic Allowance, Special Responsibility Allowances, Civic Mayor's and Deputy Civic Mayor's Allowances may be subject to annual adjustment in line with the percentage pay award agreed by the National Joint Council (NJC) for Local Government Services staff (LGSS). Members may review this aspect no more frequently than annually to determine whether there will be an adjustment for the Council year in question. Where it is necessary to consider a potential uplift in-year (where the details of the annual LGSS settlement is not agreed until after the commencement of the year to which the scheme applies) paragraph 5 below will apply.

5 Where an amendment is to be made by virtue of an uplift which affects an allowance payable for the year in which the amendment is made, the entitlement to such allowance as amended is to apply with effect from the beginning of the year in which the amendment is made. There is no ability to backdate any entitlement beyond the current year.

6 All Members shall continue to receive their Basic Allowance in full in the case of maternity, adoption, shared parental, paternity and sickness leave (subject to the six-month councillor attendance at meetings requirement under Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972).

- 7 In specific circumstances the payment of a Special Responsibility Allowance may continue during a period of absence in the case of maternity, adoption, shared parental, paternity and sickness leave. Where the SRA is paid at a reduced level the payment will be applied proportionately during the period of absence. Where members have elected not to receive their SRA no payment will be made. The Council, relevant committee/body or Mayor in case of Cabinet Members, as appropriate, may depending on the circumstances, appoint a temporary replacement to cover the period of absence, who will be entitled to an SRA pro-rata for the period of the temporary appointment.
- 8 Full details of entitlement to leave and allowances as a result of maternity, adoption, shared parental, paternity and sickness are attached at Appendix C.

## **DEPENDENT CARERS, TRAVEL AND SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCE SCHEMES**

Members are entitled to claim reimbursement of expenditure incurred on the provision of the care of their children and dependent relations requiring care when undertaking an Approved Duty, subject to the provisions of the scheme set out below. Members are also entitled to claim travel and subsistence expenses incurred in the performance of an Approved Duty.

### **Approved Duties**

An Approved Duty shall be one that is specified in the relevant statutory Regulations, which currently provide for the following activities:

- 1 A meeting of the Executive.
- 2 A meeting of a Committee of the Executive.
- 3 A meeting of the Authority.
- 4 A meeting of a Committee or Sub-committee of the Authority.
- 5 A meeting of any other body to which the Member has been appointed or nominated by the Authority.
- 6 A meeting of a Committee or Sub-Committee to which the Member has been appointed or nominated by the Authority.
- 7 A meeting which has been authorised by the Authority, a Committee or Sub-Committee or a joint Committee of the Authority or 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.
- 8 A meeting of a local authority association of which the Authority is a member.
- 9 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 authorised the inspection of premises.

The following Rates of Allowances shall be monitored by the General Purposes Committee, who shall also have power to revise them.

**RATES OF  
DEPENDENT CARERS, TRAVEL AND SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCES  
TO MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

The following allowances will be paid as a reimbursement of **INCURRED** expenditure **FOR AN APPROVED DUTY**, following the submission of receipts or other supporting documents, within 2 months of the expenditure being incurred.

**DEPENDENT CARERS ALLOWANCE**

1. Expenditure not less than the London Living Wage, currently £13.15 per hour, incurred in respect of care provided by a person that is not a member of the Member's household, for:
  - The care of children 15 years of age or under living in the Member's household; or
  - The care of other dependants where there is medical or social work evidence that care is required.
  - Where specialist nursing care is required at a higher rate, and the prior written agreement of the Head of Democratic Services on behalf of the Monitoring Officer has been obtained, a higher rate will be payable.

**TRAVEL ALLOWANCES (payable only for Out-of-Borough travel)**

**Rail or other Public Transport**

Ordinary or cheap fare, at first class rates, plus actual expenditure on:

- [a] Pullman car or similar supplements; reservation of seats; deposit or portorage of luggage.
- [b] Sleeping accommodation for an overnight journey (subject to thirty-three and one third percent reduction of any subsistence allowance payable for that night).

**Taxi-Cab or Cab**

- [a] In cases of urgency or where no public service is reasonably available, the amount of the actual fare and any reasonable gratuity paid;

[b] In other cases, the equivalent fare for travel by an appropriate public transport.

### **Private motor vehicle**

The rate for travel by a Member's private motor vehicle shall not exceed the following rates:

- [i] motorcycle, tricar or motor car of cylinder capacity 500cc **25.9p per mile**
- [ii] not exceeding 999cc **34.6p per mile**
- [iii] 1000cc - 1199cc **39.5p per mile**
- [iv] 1200cc and above **48.5p per mile**
- [v] For the carriage of each additional Member of the Council (not exceeding four): 3.0p per mile for the first passenger and 2.0p per mile for second and subsequent passengers.
- [vi] Expenditure on tolls, ferries, parking fees.
- [vii] Reimbursement of overnight parking charges.

### **Private bicycle**

The rate for travel by a Member's private bicycle shall not exceed **24.0p per mile**.

### **Hired Cars**

The rate which would have been applicable had the vehicle belonged to the Member who hired it. Subject to the approval of the General Purposes Committee, the rate may be increased to an amount not exceeding the actual cost of hiring.

## **SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCES (payable only for Out-of-Borough subsistence)**

**Breakfast Allowance** **£4.92**

More than 4 hours away from normal place of residence or a lesser period before 11am.

**Lunch Allowance** **£6.77**

More than 4 hours away from normal place of residence or a lesser period including the lunchtime between noon and 2pm.

**Tea Allowance** **£2.67**

More than 4 hours away from normal place of residence or a lesser period including the period 3pm to 6pm.

**Evening Allowance** **£8.38**

More than 4 hours away from normal place of residence or a lesser period ending after 7pm.

**Overnight Absence** **£79.82**

From usual place of residence

**Overnight Absence in London** **£91.04**

Or for the purpose of attendance at an annual conference (including or not including an annual meeting) of the Association of County Councils, the Association of Metropolitan Authorities and the Association of District Councils or such other association of bodies as the Secretaries of State may for the time being approve for the purpose.

For the purposes of the above paragraph, London means the City of London and the London Boroughs of Camden, Greenwich, Hackney, Hammersmith & Fulham, Islington, Kensington & Chelsea, Lambeth, Lewisham, Southwark, Tower Hamlets, Wandsworth and Westminster.

**NOTE:** Any Subsistence Allowances claimed should be reduced by an appropriate amount in respect of any meal provided free of charge by the Council or body in respect of the meal or the period to which the allowance relates. Additionally, where main meals are taken on trains during a period for which there is an entitlement for a day subsistence allowance, the reasonable cost of the meals (including VAT) may be reimbursed in full. In such circumstances, reimbursement for the reasonable cost of a meal replaces the entitlement to the day subsistence allowance for the appropriate meal period.

**COUNCILLORS' BASIC AND SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY ALLOWANCES**  
**April 2024/25.**

		(£)
<b>Basic Allowance</b>	All Members	11,692
	Civic Mayor's Allowance	15,900
	Deputy Civic Mayor's Allowance	7950.40
<b>Special Responsibility Allowances - Paid in addition to Basic Allowance</b> (Unless otherwise stated)		
	Elected Mayor of the Council (inc. Basic Allowance)	81,894.36
	Statutory Deputy Mayor	30,352.80
	Cabinet Members (up to 7 positions)	27,503.20
	Deputy Cabinet Members (up to 5 positions)	5,491.36
	Chair - Scrutiny and Overview Committee	20,942
	Deputy Chair - Scrutiny and Overview Committee	8,585.60
	Conservative Group Secretary	8,268
	Conservative Chief Whip	12,121.80
	Chair - Licensing Committee	8,246.40
	Chair - Planning Committee	13,224.80
	Chair - Pension Committee	7,368
	Chair – General Purposes Committee	5,615.20
	Leader of the Labour Group	17,956
	Deputy Leader of the Labour Group (Up to 2 positions)	6,567.60
	Shadow Cabinet Members (up to 6 positions)	5,615.20
	Labour Chief Whip	5,615.20
	Labour Group Secretary	5,505.60
	Vice Chair - Scrutiny and Overview Committee	8,585.60
<b>Co-optee allowance</b>	Chair - Audit and Governance Committee	8,000.00



## **APPENDIX C**

### **PARENTAL AND SICKNESS LEAVE ARRANGEMENTS**

#### Introduction

This Appendix sets out Members' entitlement to maternity, paternity, shared parental adoption leave and sickness leave and relevant allowances.

The objective is to ensure that insofar as possible Members are able to take appropriate leave at the time of birth or adoption that both parents are able to take leave, 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.

Improved provision for new parents will contribute towards increasing the diversity of experience, age and background of local authority Members. It will also assist with retaining experienced Members – particularly women – and making public office more accessible to individuals who might otherwise feel excluded from it.

There is at present no legal right to parental leave of any kind for elected Members. This applies to MPs as well as Members and these arrangements can therefore only currently be implemented on a voluntary basis by individual Councils.

#### **1. Leave Periods**

##### *Maternity*

1.1 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.

1.2 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.

1.3 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.

##### *Paternity*

1.4 Members shall be entitled to take 2 weeks paternity leave if they are the biological father or nominated carer of their partner/spouse following the birth of their child(ren). The Member may take one week at a time or two consecutive weeks of paternity leave, but not single days or less than a week's duration. Paternity leave must be taken within two months of the birth or adoption.

### *Shared parental leave*

1.5 A Member is entitled to Shared Parental Leave if they have (or share with the other parent) the main responsibility for the care of the child and are either the Mother, Father, Main Adopter or Other Adopter of the child, or the spouse, civil partner or partner of the Mother/Main Adopter.

A Member may share up to 50 weeks leave if the Mother/Main Adopter curtails their maternity/adoption leave before using their full entitlement of 52 weeks. The number of weeks available as Shared Parental Leave will be reduced by the number of weeks maternity or adoption leave that has already been taken by the Mother or Main Adopter.

Shared Parental Leave can be taken as one continuous block or in multiples of complete weeks, but must end no later than one year after the birth/placement of the child.

1.6 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.

### *Adoption*

1.7 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.

### *Sickness*

A Member who is sick will continue to receive the basic allowance as long as they remain a councillor and comply with the attendance requirements regarding council meetings under section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972. They will also continue to receive any SRA for a period of up to six months during any 12 month period subject to review and a possible extension by six months.

### *General*

1.8 Any Member who takes maternity, shared parental, adoption or sickness 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.

1.9 Any Member intending to take maternity, paternity, shared parental, adoption or sickness leave will be responsible for ensuring that they comply with the relevant notice requirements of the Council as set out in paragraph 4 below, both in terms of the point at which the leave starts and the point at which they return.

1.10 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.

## **2 Basic Allowance**

2.1 All Members shall continue to receive their Basic Allowance in full whilst on maternity, paternity, adoption or sickness leave as long as they remain a Member (subject to the six month councillor attendance at meetings requirement in section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972).

## **3. Special Responsibility Allowances**

3.1 Members entitled to a Special Responsibility Allowance shall continue to receive their allowance in full in the case of maternity, paternity, shared parental, adoption or sickness leave for a period of 6 months followed by a further period of 6 months at half rate.

3.2 Where a temporary replacement is appointed to cover the period of absence that person shall also receive an SRA on a pro rata basis for the period of the temporary appointment.

3.3 The payment of Special Responsibility Allowances, whether to the primary SRA holder or a temporary replacement, during a period of maternity, paternity, shared parental, adoption or sickness leave shall continue for a period of six months subject to a possible extension for a further six month period or until the Member or temporary replacement ceases to be appointed to a position entitling an SRA or is up for election whichever is the sooner.

3.4 Should a Member appointed to act as a temporary replacement for the Member on maternity, paternity, shared parental, adoption or sickness leave already hold a remunerated position, the ordinary rules relating to payment of more than one Special Responsibility Allowances shall apply.

## **4. Notification**

4.1 Maternity Leave: The Member should notify the Head of Democratic Services of their intention to take maternity leave in writing no later than 28 days before the date they wish the period of maternity leave to start and:

- i) Confirm the expected date of childbirth; ii) ) Provide a copy of the MATB1 (available from a doctor or midwife);
- iii) Confirm the dates which the Member will be absent.

4.2 Paternity Leave: The Member should notify the Head of Democratic Services of their intention to take paternity leave in writing no later than 28 days before they wish the period of paternity leave to start and:

- i) Confirm the expected date of childbirth; or date the child is expected to be placed for adoption (UK Adoption); or the date on which the date on which the child is expected to enter Great Britain (Overseas Adoption);

- i) Provide a copy of the MATB1 or matching certificate/official notification;
- iii) Confirm the dates which the Member will be absent.

4.3 Adoption Leave: The Member should notify the Head of Democratic Services of their intention to take adoption leave in writing no later than 28 days before the date they wish the period of adoption leave to start and:

- i) Confirm they are the Main Adopter and the date the child is expected to be placed for adoption (UK Adoption) or the date on which the child is expected to enter Great Britain (Overseas Adoption); ii) ) Provide a copy of the matching certificate/official notification;
- iii) Confirm the dates which the Member will be absent

4.4 Shared Parental Leave: The Member should notify the Head of Democratic Services of their intention to take shared parental leave in writing no later than 28 days before the date they wish the period of shared parental leave to start and:

- i) Confirm their entitlement to shared parental leave and the expected (or actual) date of birth/placement;
- ii) Confirm the start and end dates of the Mother/Main Adopter's maternity/adoption leave, the amount of shared parental leave available and how much each parent intends to take; iii) Provide a copy of the MATB1 or matching certificate/official notification;
- iv) Confirm the dates which the Member will be absent.

4.5 Sickness Leave. The Member should notify the Head of Democratic Services where they are likely to be sick for a period in excess of 2 months.

4.6 If the Member wishes to change the start date of a period of leave they should write to the Head of Democratic Services no later than 28 days before either the original start date or the new start date (whichever is earlier).

4.7. If the Member wishes to change the end date of a period of leave they should write to the Head of Democratic Services at least 28 days before either the original end date or the new end date (whichever is earlier).

4.8. The Head of Democratic Services will provide confirmation that the information on revised dates has been received and that relevant re-instatement or adjustment of any SRA has taken place within 10 working days.

## **5. Resigning from Office and Elections**

5.1 If a Member decides not to return at the end of their maternity, paternity, and shared parental, adoption or sickness leave they must notify the Council at the earliest possible opportunity. All allowances will cease from the effective resignation date.

5.2 If an election is held during the Member's maternity, paternity, shared parental, adoption or sickness 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.