

ARMAGH CITY BANBRIDGE AND CRAIGAVON BOROUGH COUNCIL SCHEME OF ALLOWANCES PAYABLE TO COUNCILLORS 2017 – 2018

Councillors allowances are governed by statute. This Scheme is made under the Local Government (Payments to Councillors) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012.

This scheme commences on the 1st of April 2017.

1. In this scheme:

- ‘approved duty’ is defined in Schedule 2, as provided for in the Local Government (Payments to Councillors) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012;
- ‘Department’ means the Department for Communities
- ‘guidance’ means the Department for Communities Guidance on Councillors’ Allowances, Local Government Circular 23/2016 and its updates in February 2017; and
- ‘Regulations’ means the Local Government (Payments to Councillors) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012.

2. Basic Allowance

2.1 Subject to sub-paragraph 2.3 and paragraph 6 below, from 1 April 2017 until 31 March 2018, an annual basic allowance of £14,485 shall be paid to each councillor.

2.2 Not more than one basic allowance is payable to any councillor.

2.3 The basic allowance includes an element for incidental and consumable costs incurred by councillors in their official capacity.

3. Special Responsibility Allowance

3.1 For the period 1 April 2017 until 31 March 2018, a special responsibility allowance shall be paid to those councillors who hold the special responsibilities specified in Schedule 1.

3.2 The amount of each such allowance shall be the amount specified against that special responsibility in that Schedule. The allowance is only payable when whilst the councillor is carrying out that duty.

3.3 A SRA must not be paid to more than 50% of Councillors

3.4 Not more than one special responsibility allowance is payable to any councillor.

3.5 Where applicable any responsibility allowances will be paid pro rata.

4. Lord Mayor / Deputy Lord Mayor Allowance

4.1. An allowance of £18,362 will be payable to the Lord Mayor of the council.

4.2. An allowance of £8,161 will be payable to the Deputy Lord Mayor of the council.

5. Dependants' Carers' Allowance

5.1 Councillors are entitled to claim a dependants' carers' allowance towards reimbursement of reasonable costs necessarily incurred in providing care for a dependant while carrying out an approved duty.

5.2 A dependant lives with the claimant and is defined as:

- a child under 16 years old;
- a child 16 years old or more, where there is medical/social work evidence that full-time care is required;
- an adult with a recognised physical/mental disability where there is medical/social work evidence that full-time care is required; or
- an elderly relative requiring full-time care.

5.3 A dependants' carers' allowance shall be payable based upon actual receipted costs. Payment will be at the rates given in paragraph 5.4, which are subject to the limits determined by the Department.

5.4 For the period 1 April 2017 until 31 March 2018, the hourly rate of dependants' carers' allowance for standard care shall be £7.50 and for specialised care shall be £15.00. The monthly maximum for standard care paid to individual councillors shall be £390 and the monthly maximum for specialised care shall be £780.

6. Travel and Subsistence Allowances

- 6.1 A councillor or committee member is entitled to claim travel and subsistence allowances where expenditure on travelling or subsistence has been necessarily incurred in connection with an approved duty as specified in Schedule 2.
- 6.2 The rates of travel allowance for travel by public transport shall not exceed the actual amount paid. Where reasonably available, the cheapest available form of public transport should be used, except in urgent cases.
- 6.3 The rates of travel allowance for travel by private vehicle shall be the amounts shown below, which are within the maxima determined by the Department for Communities.

TYPE OF VEHICLE	Rate per mile
A pedal cycle	20.0p
A motor cycle	24.0p
A motor car of cylinder capacity exceeding 450cc but not exceeding 999cc	46.9p *13.7p
A motor car of cylinder capacity exceeding 999cc but not exceeding 1,199cc	52.2p *14.4p
A motor car of cylinder capacity exceeding 1,199cc	65.0p *16.4p
An electric car	45.0p **25.0p
Passenger Rate (per passenger)	5.0p

* for mileage over 8,500 annual miles.

**for mileage over 10,000miles

- 6.4 The rates of subsistence shall be the amounts shown below, which are within the maxima determined by the Department for Communities.

PERIOD/MEAL	RATES	
	British Isles £	London £
An absence involving an overnight stay only , away from the normal place of residence	100.70	122.45
Breakfast allowance (more than 4 hours away from the normal place of residence or, where approved by the council, a lesser period before 11 am)	11.50	11.50
Lunch allowance (more than 4 hours away from the normal place of residence or, where approved by the council, a lesser period including the period between 12 noon and 2pm)	13.50	13.50
Tea allowance (more than 4 hours away from the normal place of residence or, where approved by the council, a lesser period including the period between 3pm and 6pm)	4.70	4.70
Evening meal allowance (more than 4 hours away from the normal place of residence or, where approved by the council, a lesser period ending after 7pm)	20.95	20.95
Sub-total for meals	50.65	50.65
Total maximum rate (absence of 24 hours)	151.35	173.10

7. Part-Year Entitlement

- 7.1 If an amendment to this scheme is made which affects payment of a basic allowance or special responsibility allowance in the year in which the amendment is made, then in relation to each of the periods:
- (a) beginning with the year and ending with the day before that day 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 day on which the next amendment takes effect, or (if none) with the year,

the entitlement to such allowance shall reflect the proportion of the year when entitlement existed.

- 7.2 Where the term of office of a councillor begins or ends other than at the beginning or end of a year, entitlement to a basic allowance shall reflect the proportion of the year when entitlement existed.
- 7.3 Where a councillor has during part of, but not throughout, a year such special responsibilities as attract entitlement to a special responsibility allowance, that entitlement shall reflect the proportion of the year when entitlement existed.

8. Claims and Payment

- 8.1 Payments regarding basic allowance and special responsibility allowance shall be made in equal instalments of one-twelfth of the amount specified in this scheme on the last working day of each month.
- 8.2 Claims for dependants' carers' allowance, travelling allowance or subsistence allowance must be made in writing within three months, and must be accompanied by receipts, where appropriate.

9. General

- 9.1 This scheme may be revoked or amended at any time.
- 9.2 Councillors may, if they wish, renounce their entitlement to basic, chairperson, vice chairperson or special responsibility allowances. They can do this by writing to the Chief Executive. A councillor can subsequently withdraw the renunciation. They can also amend a renunciation (for example, to limit it to one kind of allowance only). The withdrawal or amendment cannot have retrospective effect.

SCHEDULE 1 SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY ALLOWANCES

The following are specified by Armagh City Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council as the special responsibilities in respect of which special responsibility allowances (SRA) are payable and the amounts of those allowances.

Role	No.	SRA £
Committee Chairs	6	8,161
Committee Vice Chairs	6	3,060
Party Leader - Group	4	6,121
Party Leader - Individual	2	3,060
Audit Committee Chair	1	3,060
Partnership Panel	1	3,060
TOTAL	20	

SCHEDULE 2

In accordance with Regulations, only the following are specified as the duties in respect of which basic allowance, dependants' carers' allowances, and travel and subsistence allowances are available.

1. attendance at a meeting of the council;
2. attendance at a meeting of a committee of the council;
3. attendance at a meeting of a sub-committee of the council;
4. attendance at workshops, or meetings convened by the Chief Executive in connection with Council business;
5. the doing of anything approved by a council or anything of a class so approved, for the purpose of, or in connection with, the discharge of the functions of the council, or any of its committees or sub-committees, or as the case may be, of the joint committee or any of its sub-committees.

Regarding point 5, specific duties approved by the Council include.

Attendance at conferences, courses, training events

Attendance at Civic and or Official events

Attendance at media events

Any other events or duties which Council may approve during the year.