

ARMAGH CITY, BANBRIDGE AND CRAIGAVON BOROUGH COUNCIL**SCHEME OF ALLOWANCES PAYABLE TO COUNCILLORS 2020 – 2021**

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

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 all the updates including the most recent Local Government Circular 08/ 2020 issued on the 3rd April 2020
- 'Regulations' means the Local Government (Payments to Councillors) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012

2. **Basic Allowance**

- 2.1 Subject to sub-paragraph 2.3 below, from 1 April 2020 until 31 May 2021, an annual basic allowance of £15,071, 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 (SRA)

- 3.1 For this period, 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 the councillor is carrying out that duty
- 3.3 Not more than one special responsibility allowance is payable to any Councillor.
- 3.4 Where applicable any responsibility allowances will be paid pro rata.

4. Lord Mayor / Deputy Lord Mayor Allowance

- 4.1. An allowance of £19,103 will be payable to the Lord Mayor of the Council.
- 4.2. An allowance of £8,490 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 this period, the hourly rate of dependants' carers' allowance for standard care shall be £8.72 and for specialised care shall be £17.44. The monthly maximum for standard care paid to individual councillors shall be £454 and the monthly maximum for specialised care shall be £907

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 maximum 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 In accordance with addendum No2 to circular LG 23/2106 issued by the Department of Communities in May 2019, the following will be applied -

If a Councillor is suspended from carrying out the duties of a Councillor, in accordance with section 59(5) or section 60(1) of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014, the part of basic allowance, special responsibility allowance or chairperson/vice chairperson allowance payable to the councillor in respect for the period for which the Councillor is suspended, will be withheld.

9.2 This scheme may be revoked or amended at any time.

9.3 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 £	Total £
Committee Chairs	5	7,000	35,000
Party Leader (Group)	5	6,350	31,750
Party Leader (Individual)	1	3,150	3,150
Audit Committee Chair	1	3,150	3,150
*Planning Committee Member (Can Rotate between committee members)	7	5,460	38,220
Partnership Panel	1	3,150	3,150
Total	20		£114,420

SCHEDULE 2 – SPECIFIED DUTIES

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*