

Part 5 – members’ allowances

a. Scheme of members’ allowances

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Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, in exercise of its powers contained within section 18 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 as amended, and in accordance with the Local Authorities (Members’ Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003, hereby makes the following scheme.

1. The scheme may be cited as the Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council Scheme of Members’ Allowances.
2. The amended scheme shall have effect from 11 May 2015.
3. “Year” means any period of twelve months ending on 31 March in any year.
4. Member development and support
 - 4.1 Because of the increasing responsibilities placed upon members, particularly those who have special responsibilities, it is a fundamental element of this scheme that appropriate development opportunities are made available and that members engage in such activities when provided.
5. Basic allowance
 - 5.1 Subject to paragraph 9, for each year a basic allowance of £4,000 shall be paid to each councillor.

6. Special responsibility allowances

6.1 For each year, a special responsibility allowance shall be paid to those councillors who hold the special responsibilities in relation to the authority as specified in the schedule included in this scheme.

6.2 Subject to paragraph 9, the amount of each such allowance shall be the amount specified against that special responsibility in the schedule.

6.3 No more than two special responsibility allowances should be paid to an individual member.

7. Childcare and dependent carer's allowance

7.1 Payment will be reimbursed on the basis of reasonable expenses incurred.

8. Travel and subsistence allowance for 'approved duties'

8.1 Car allowances for authorised journeys on approved duties will be paid at the following rates:

Per mile for the first 8,500 miles	45p
Per mile after 8,500 miles	25p

8.2 Reimbursement of taxi or public transport costs for authorised journeys on approved duties will be approved on production of a valid VAT receipt and relevant form, which must be returned to the Democratic Services Officer.

8.3 Subsistence allowances for approved duties will be paid at the same rates and conditions applicable to staff. Current rates are:

- Breakfast – payable only if it is unreasonable to expect you to take breakfast before 7am - £5.00 maximum
- Lunch – payable only if lunch is not provided at the event - £7.00 maximum
- Evening meal – payable only if you are unable to take a meal at your normal place after 6.30pm - £9.00 maximum.

The subsistence allowances are subject to the production of appropriate receipts and completion of the relevant form, which must be returned to the Democratic Services Officer.

In the event of overnight stays in hotels or attendance at conferences, two alternatives are available:

- The Democratic Services Officer will book the hotel, raising the relevant purchase order and awaiting an invoice
- Where the hotel declines the above arrangement, book in advance and pay the hotel on departure. The council will reimburse the costs on the production of the receipted hotel bill and claim form.

8.4 Approved duties include:

- Meetings of council bodies formally convened by the council or its officers
- Conferences or meetings where attendance is authorised by the council or a senior officer
- Outside bodies to which the councillor has been appointed by Council
- Meetings convened with officers with their agreement.

Political group meetings are not included as an approved duty.

9. Renunciation

9.1 A councillor may, by notice in writing to the Director (Corporate Services) elect to forego his/her entitlement or any part of his/her entitlement to an allowance under this scheme.

10. Part-year entitlements

10.1 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.

10.2 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:

- beginning with the year and ending with the day before that on which the first amendment in that year takes effect or
- 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.

10.3 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 of such part of the basic allowance as bears to the whole the same proportion as the number of days during which his/her term of office bears to the number of days in that year.

10.4 Where this scheme is amended as mentioned in paragraph 10.2 and the term of office of a councillor does not subsist throughout the period mentioned in paragraph 10.2, such part of the basic allowance payable referable to each such period (ascertained in accordance with that paragraph) as bears to the whole the same proportion as the number of days during which his/her term of office as a councillor subsists bears to the number of days in that period.

10.5 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 or she has such special responsibilities bears to the number of days in that year.

10.6 Where this scheme is amended as mentioned in 10.2 and a councillor has during part, but does not have throughout the whole, of any period mentioned in 10.2 any 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 the allowance referable to each such period (ascertained in accordance with paragraph 10.2) 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. Payments

11.1 Subject to paragraph 9, payments of the basic allowance and special responsibility allowance shall be made in instalments of one-twelfth of the amount specified in this scheme on the 25th of each month.

11.2 Claims for any childcare or dependent carer's allowance, and for any travel or subsistence allowances, shall be submitted within three months of incurring the expenditure.

12. Schedule of allowances

12.1 The following are specified as the special responsibilities in respect of which special responsibility allowances are payable and the amount of those allowances:

	£
Mayor	8,000
Deputy Mayor	3,000
Leader of Council	10,000
Member of Executive	5,500
Opposition Leader(s)	3,500
Appeals Panel chairman	3,500
Audit Committee chairman	2,500
Ethical Governance & Personnel Committee chairman	2,500
Finance & Performance Scrutiny chairman	2,500
Licensing (including Regulatory) Committees chairman (1)	3,500
Planning Committee chairman	3,500
Scrutiny Commission chairman	3,500