

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME 2008/2009

1. Definitions

In this scheme

"Council" means North Hertfordshire District Council

"Councillor" means a Member of the Council who is a Councillor

"year" means the 12 months ended 31 March.

2. Commencement and Duration

This scheme shall have effect for the year commencing 1 April 2008 and for subsequent years, save that the Council may amend the scheme at any time subject to the provisions of paragraph 8 hereunder.

3. Basic Allowance

Subject to paragraph 8, a basic allowance of £3,622 shall be paid to each Councillor for each year.

4. Special Responsibility Allowance

For each year a special responsibility allowance in the amounts indicated below shall be paid to those Councillors who hold the following special responsibilities:-

Leader of the Council	£7,202
Deputy Leader of the Council	£1,180
Cabinet Portfolio Members	£4,364
Chairman of Performance, Audit and Review Committee	£2,946
Chairmen of Area Committees	£2,946
Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee	£2,946
Chairman of the Planning and Control Committee	£3,647
Chairman, Highways Partnership Panel**	£1,527
Leader of largest Opposition Group	£2,281
Leader of second largest Opposition Group	£1,797
Chairman of Standards Committee	£2,946

Such allowances shall be subject to the requirements of Paragraph 8 hereunder.

* Figures in brackets indicate the allowance for 2007/8

** Where the Chairman is a Member of the North Hertfordshire District Council

5. Travelling and Subsistence Allowances

Travelling and subsistence allowances are payable at the rates determined by the NJC for Council staff and in the following circumstances:

- (a) the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council when engaged on official Council business;

- (b) the Chairman and Vice Chairman of any Committee or Sub-Committee for attending pre-agenda and briefing meetings and opening tenders;
- (c) Cabinet Portfolio Members for attending meetings with officers in connection with their official duties as Spokesman;
- (d) attendance by Councillors at a meeting of the Council or any Committee or Sub Committee appointed thereby in accordance with the provisions of Section 102(1)(a) and (c) of the Local Government Act 1972 (including informal meetings of such bodies which have been arranged at the behest of the appropriate Chairman and to which all Members therefore have been invited to attend), of which he/she is a Member, or has been specifically requested to attend by the Chairman and such is recorded in the minutes of the meeting;
- (e) attendance by Councillors at a meeting of any Working Party or Panel to which he/she has been appointed by any of the bodies referred to in (d) above and comprising representatives of more than one political group;
- (f) attendance by Councillors at Seminars and other similar meetings arranged formally for the purpose of informing and/or training to which representatives of more than one political group have been invited;
- (g) attendance at meetings of external bodies to which the Councillor claiming is the Council's appointed representative;
- (h) attendance by Councillors at conferences, courses, seminars, etc;

(No such allowance shall be payable in respect of attendance at any conference or meeting in relation to which the Councillor is entitled to a payment in the nature of an allowance under Section 175 of the Local Government Act 1972.

No such allowance shall be payable if such a payment would be contrary to a provision made by or under any enactment)

6. Renunciation

A Councillor may by notice in writing given to the Democratic Services Manager elect to forego any part of his/her entitlement to an allowance under this scheme.

7. Childcare and dependent Carers' Allowance

A care allowance will be paid to any Member who incurs expenditure on the care of young children and or dependent relatives in order to perform their duties as a Councillor, subject to:

- (a) the duty being one for which Travelling and Subsistence Allowance is payable under this Scheme of Members' Allowances; and
- (b) that each individual claim shall not exceed the actual sum paid or £5.81 per hour, whichever is the lesser.

8. Part-Year Entitlements

If during the course of the year the Council amends the amounts payable in respect of basic or special responsibility allowance, then the entitlement to such allowance shall be adjusted pro-rata to the proportion of the year that such allowance is payable.

Where a Councillor (a) is not a Councillor for the whole of the year; or (b) during the course of the year takes up or relinquishes a position in respect of which a special responsibility allowance is payable, then the entitlement to basic or special responsibility allowance shall be adjusted pro-rata to the proportion of the year during which he/she was a Councillor or held such position.

9. Claims

A claim for travelling and/or subsistence allowance under this Scheme shall (a) be made in writing within three months of the date of the meeting in respect of which the entitlement to the allowances arises; and (b) include or be accompanied by, a statement by the Councillor claiming the allowance that he or she is not entitled to receive remuneration in respect of the matter to which the claim relates otherwise than under the Scheme.

Claims submitted later than three months after the relevant date shall be paid only in such exceptional circumstances as are approved by the Strategic Director of Financial and Regulatory Services.

10. Payments

Subject to the provisions of paragraph 8 payments of basic and special responsibility allowances shall be made in monthly instalments.

Payments in respect of travelling and subsistence allowance shall be made as soon as is practicable after submission of a claim.

11. External Conferences, Seminars, etc.

Travelling and subsistence Allowance at the same rate as that applying under the Members' Allowances Scheme are payable to those Members attending conferences, seminars, courses, etc., falling within the criteria specified in Section 175 of the Local Government Act, 1972 where such attendance has been previously approved by the Council or the appropriate Committee etc.

David Miley
Democratic Services Manager
North Hertfordshire District Council