

PUBLIC NOTICE

LONDON BOROUGH OF MERTON

MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES – SCHEME OF ALLOWANCES FOR THE REMUNERATION OF COUNCILLORS IN THE LONDON BOROUGH OF MERTON

This Notice is published in accordance with Regulation 16(1) of the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003.

The Council on 5 February 2020 agreed to re-adopt its scheme of member allowances for the year 2020/21 and in doing so gave due regard to the recommendations made by the report of the Independent Panel on the Remuneration of Councillors in London (January 2018).

Details of the London Borough of Merton's Scheme for Members' allowances can be found on the Council's web site:

<https://www.merton.gov.uk/council-and-local-democracy/councillors/allowances-and-expenses>

or may be inspected at Merton Civic Centre, London Road, Morden, London SM4 5DX during normal opening hours*.

*Please note that in line with Government advice on the Coronavirus pandemic, Merton Civic Centre is currently closed to the public. The Council's website will be updated when the situation changes.

Ged Curran
Chief Executive
16 April 2020

The Council's Scheme of Allowances, 2019/20

The scheme is based on the Scheme for 2019/20. No changes have been made to the allowance rates which remain at the 2019/20 levels. Council, at its meeting on 5 February 2020 approved the inclusion of a new paragraph in the Scheme of Allowances to confirm that member allowances will continue to be paid during periods of sickness and parental leave.

The main elements of the scheme are the payment of a Basic Allowance of £8,694 per annum to each of the 60 Members of the Council and the payment of Responsibility Allowances to certain councillors who have been appointed to particular offices by the Council:

Leader of the Council £34,776
Deputy Leader £17,388
Leader of the Opposition £17,388
Leader of Minority Group £5,737

Cabinet Member £8,694
Chair, Scrutiny Commission £8,694
Chair, Planning Committee £8,694
Chair, Licensing Committee £8,694
Chair, General Purposes Committee £2,868
Scrutiny panel chairs, £2,868
Assistant Cabinet Members £2,868
Chair, Borough Development Plan Advisory Committee £2,868
Adoption & Fostering Panel £2,172
Licensing sub-committee chairs, £246 per meeting attended

Note that Special Responsibility Allowances are not cumulative. If more than one position attracting an SRA is held, only the highest applicable allowance will be paid.

In addition, £100 per meeting is paid to the co-opted members with voting rights on the Overview and Scrutiny Commission and the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel. £100 per meeting or equivalent activity is paid to the Council's Independent Persons.

Allowances and expenses payments made in 2019/20

Councillors with dependents can claim an allowance where it was necessary to pay for care to allow them to undertake council duties, such as attending official meetings. Council, at its meeting on 5 February 2020 approved an amendment to the Members Allowances Scheme so that the dependent carers allowance is set at the London Living Wage. It was previously set at a maximum £6 per hour.

Councillors are also entitled to expenses where they are incurred in connection with their role as a councillor. These include travel expenses for travel outside the borough in respect of "approved duties", including for attending learning and development.

The Council is required to make available the amounts paid to each councillor in respect of basic, special responsibility and dependents' allowances for the previous year.

The figures for the year 2019/20 are available for inspection at the Council's offices during normal office hours and on the website:

<https://www.merton.gov.uk/council-and-local-democracy/councillors/allowances-and-expenses>