

Members Allowances Scheme 2020 - 2021 and 2021 - 2024

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1. Effective Dates

1.1 In accordance with the Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003, as amended, the Council, at its meeting on 21 September 2020, has agreed the following Scheme of Members' Allowances, which will have effect for the period from the Annual meeting in May 2021 to the date of the Annual Meeting in May 2024 in relation to Special Responsibility Allowances. The timings regarding Basic Allowances are as detailed below.

2. Basic Allowance

2.1 For the period 1 April 2020 an increase of 1.7% (CPI Figure) on the current basic allowance of £8321 is £141.46 x 58 members is **£8204.68**. On a per member basis it would be **£8462**.

2.2 All Members are to receive an annual Basic Allowance in the sum of £8,750 from 1 April 2021, subject to the additional annual rise for 2020/21.

2.3 The amount of Basic Allowance is based upon the following formula:-

$$[(\text{estimated 2009/10 median Warrington hourly rate}) \times (\text{councillors hours worked}) \times (\text{weeks per year})] - \text{voluntary contribution} = \text{Basic Allowance. i.e. } (12.35 \times 22.5 \times 52) - 45\% = £7,947 \text{ }^{*1}$$

*¹NOTES: (1) The above figure was adjusted downwards in 2009/10 to £7,911, so as not to increase the allowance by greater than the 2.5% increase set aside in the 2009/10 Budget for the staff pay award. The resultant figure has been retained for 2010/11, 2011/12, 2012/13, 2013/14, 2014/15 and 2015/20.

2.4 The Basic Allowance shall increase annually in accordance with a percentage amount for inflation as determined by any positive value of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) as at February immediately prior to the introduction of a new Scheme and shall be so indexed for a period of four years commencing on 1 April 2021 and ending on 31 March 2024. In the event of a negative value for inflation (deflation) there will be no change to the level of Basic Allowance.

3. Special Responsibility Allowance

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- 3.1 An annual Special Responsibility Allowance shall be paid to the following office holders, in accordance with the amounts shown below from the date of the Annual Meeting in May 2021:-

SRA Position	Current SRA	Proposed % of Leader's SRA 2020/2024	Proposed SRA for 2021/2024
Leader of Council	£20,015	100%	£20,015
Deputy Leader of Council	£15,012	75%	£15,012
Cabinet – Children's Services	£10,008	50%	£10,008
Cabinet – Environment and Public Protection	£10,008	50%	£10,008
Cabinet – Leisure and Community	£10,008	50%	£10,008
Cabinet Housing - Public Health and Wellbeing	£10,008	50%	£10,008
Cabinet –Transportation Highways, and Public Realm	£10,008	50%	£10,008
Cabinet - Transformation	£10,008	50%	£10,008
Cabinet – Statutory Health and Adult Social Care	£10,008	50%	£10,008
Chair – Building Stronger Communities	£8506	25%	£5004
Chair – Organisational Improvement and Development	£8506	25%	£5004
Chair – Protecting the Most Vulnerable	£8506	25%	£5004
Chair – Supporting the Local Community	£8506	25%	£5004
Chair - Scrutiny	£8506	42.5%	£8506
Chair - Health Scrutiny	£8506	25%	£5004
Chair - Audit and Corporate Governance	£8506	42.5%	£8506
Chair - Development Management	£8506	42.5%	£8506
Chair - Licensing	£8506	42.5%	£8506
Opposition Group Leader 1	£8506	42.5%	£8506
*Opposition Group Leader 2	£8506	42.5%	£8506

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Chair - Corporate Parenting	£4004	10%	£2002
Chair – Traffic	£2002	10%	£2002
Chair – Appeals	£2002	10%	£2002
Chair - Standards	£2002	10%	£2002
Deputy Chair – Building Stronger Communities	£2002	5.88%	£1176
Deputy Chair – Organisational Improvement and Development	£2002	5.88%	£1176
Deputy Chair – Protecting the Most Vulnerable	£2002	5.88%	£1176
Deputy Chair – Supporting the Local Community	£2002	5.88%	£1176
Deputy Chair - Scrutiny	£2002	10%	£2002
Deputy Chair - Health Scrutiny	£2002	5.88%	£1176
Deputy Chair - Audit and Corporate Governance	£2002	10%	£2002
Deputy Chair - Development Management	£2002	10%	£2002
Deputy Chair - Licensing	£2002	10%	£2002
Mayor	£15,012	75%	£15,012
Deputy Mayor	£5004	25%	£5004
Mayor’s Consort	£4003		See note 4.4.5
Deputy Mayor’s Consort	£3202		See note 4.4.5

3.2 Where more than one position is held by a Member, only one Special Responsibility Allowance is payable (the highest amount).

3.3 Civic SRA should be set at a level equivalent to the 100% of the Leader’s allowance with no consort allowances being identified. Should Council wish to identify a consort allowance a figure of £1250 (Mayor’s Consort) and £1000 (Deputy Mayor’s Consort) are recommended with the figures being deducted from the Mayor and Deputy Mayor’s allowance respectively. It is recommended that transitional arrangements of current allowances for the incoming Mayor and Consort (Cllr Creaghan) and incoming Deputy Mayor and Consort in 2020/21 would be appropriately available to them during their period of Mayor and Deputy.

4. Travelling and Subsistence

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4.1 Within the Borough

4.1.1 The following annual rates are payable to Members:

Annual Single Rate	Amount per Annum
All Members without SRA	£243
All Members with SRA	£486

4.1.2 Members are entitled to receive a Warrington Own Buses bus pass, if one is requested. The cost of the bus pass will be deducted from the annual allowance for in-borough travel.

4.1.3 Members using taxis for travel on Council business in-borough should normally fund this from their annual travel allowance. Where the Council accepts that a Member has specific mobility issues and the annual travel allowance is insufficient to cover the total annual cost of taxi fares, the Democratic Services Manager may determine that an additional sum may be payable to cover such costs. Members will be responsible for keeping their own records and receipts as proof of expenditure. Any disagreement about entitlement to an additional allowance will be referred to the Standards Committee.

4.2 Outside the Borough

4.2.1 The following rates, which correspond to the staff travel and subsistence rates to the extent identified at paragraph 10.4, are payable to Members and Co-optees:-

Public Transport	To ensure the most effective means of transport taking into account of cost (in consultation with the Members Services team within Democratic and Member Services).
Motor Cycle:	Up to 10,000 miles
All engine sizes paid at HMRC rate for business mileage (index linked from 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2017)	24.0p
Motor Car:	Up to 10,000 miles
All engine sizes paid at HMRC rate for business mileage (index linked from 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2017)	45.0p

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Taxi Fares:			
In case of urgency or where no public transport is reasonably available	In all cases the actual fare and any reasonable gratuity paid may be claimed.		
	Approved Duty Within the UK (Not London, etc)	Approved Duty Within the UK (London)	Approved Duty Outside of the UK
Bed & Breakfast*	£106.67	£138.68	£138.68
Breakfast subsistence allowance*	£7.40	£7.40	£7.40
Lunch subsistence allowance*	£9.15	£20.00	£9.15
Tea subsistence allowance*	£3.75	£10.00	£3.75
Evening meal subsistence allowance*	£13.47	£30.00	£13.47
<p>* The rates shown must be reduced by an appropriate amount in respect of any meal or accommodation provided free of charge by an Authority or body in respect of the meal or period to which the allowance relates. Where a main meal (i.e. breakfast, lunch or dinner) is taken on a train during a period for which there is an entitlement to meal allowance, the reasonable cost of the meal may be reimbursed in lieu of payment of the meal allowance.</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members should make arrangements for travel and subsistence to be paid directly by the Authority rather than by the Member, unless in exceptional circumstances agreed in advance with the Democratic Services Manager ; • Members shall provide receipts to justify claims for travel and subsistence allowances; • Members should only be able to claim the actual amount of expenditure incurred • Members should indicate the Town Hall as the start and return point for all out of borough journeys, even when the journey commences at home. 			

4.2.2 The rates of travelling and subsistence allowance for Outside the Borough (except as indicated at Paragraph 10.3) shall be increased in line with any 'in year' or annual increases in respect of the corresponding allowances payable to staff, and shall be so indexed for a period of four years commencing on 1 April 2021 and ending on 31 March 2025.

4.2.3 Claims should normally be submitted within 2 months of undertaking the approved duty. Claims received by the 20th of each month will normally be paid on the 15th of the following month.

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4.3 Approved Duties

4.3.1 The following duties are approved duties for the purpose of travelling and subsistence allowance provided the duty is taking place outside the Borough:-

- All working parties, panels, presentations, and site visits expressly authorised by Cabinet or a committee, or undertaken as part of an agreed programme of work, and subject to sufficient funding being available in the relevant budget
- training courses* and seminars*.
- All attendances by Members on behalf of or as a representative of the Council but excluding attendance as a Ward Member and excluding attendance on behalf of a political group or some other agency.
- Attendance at functions as an authorised representative of the Borough Council.

Note*: Subject to Paragraph 4.3.2 below

4.3.2 In respect of conferences, seminars and training events, an application form must be completed (and authorised by the Democratic Services Manager) in advance, before arrangements for attendance can be made. Travel and subsistence payments may be withheld where prior approval has not been obtained.

4.3.3 Attendance at any conference included on the Schedule of Annual Conferences, as agreed by Council on 21 September 2020, does not require prior approval under paragraph 4.3.2 above, but will be subject to consideration of the necessary funding being available within the relevant budget. A summary of the Schedule (updated with consequential amendments) is as follows:-

Conference	Attended By
LGA annual conference	3 Leaders of Political Groups
National Children and Adult Services Conference	Executive Members for Children and Young People's Services and Health and Wellbeing and Adult Services, plus Shadow Members
CIPFA conference	Executive Member Corporate Resources and Assignments
Annual Scrutiny Conference	Deputy Leader and Chair of Scrutiny Committee

4.3.4 Attendance at any meeting in relation to Members representing the Council on an approved Outside Bodies list will not require approval under paragraph 4.3.2 above.

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- 4.3.5 The Council may only designate a duty as "approved" before the duty is undertaken. The Council has no power to make such a designation after the duty has been undertaken.

5. ICT Provision (Revenue)

- 5.1 Members would be entitled to either:-

- 5.1.1 All Members, subject to an individual needs assessment, may be provided with a range of ICT and associated kit. This may include items from the following range:-

Broadband, landline, mobile device, ink cartridges, licenses, stationery (other than that provided in group rooms), calls from mobiles/landlines up to a maximum figure of £50 per month per member but working towards an average spend of £40 per member. NB it is not intended that the sum will cover the full range, but rather the most important elements relevant to the individual member.

Or

- 5.1.2 Should Councillors choose to, use of their own or a mix of council/personal provision including:-

Broadband, landline, mobile device, gadget insurance, ink cartridges, calls from mobiles and landlines and upgrades to member's own broadband they will be reimbursed up to a figure of £50 per month but working towards an average spend of £40 per member. NB the use of any licenses or equipment required to comply with appropriate securities will be deducted from this amount. The maximum amount payable for individual items will be the amount currently paid by the council per month eg. currently it is £12.50 for mobile phones/calls, £12.99 - landline, £18.50 – broadband. Up to 50% of personal gadget insurance costs may be reimbursed.

6. Childcare and Dependants' Carers Allowances

- 6.1 The maximum rate of payment in respect of costs incurred by a Member for childcare and dependent care is £11.04 per hour (Previous rates are: £11.52 in 2011/12; £10.61 in 2012/13 to 2013/14 until October 2013, £10.72 from November 2013 to 2014/15).
- 6.2 Payments are subject to a maximum weekly payment of £110.40, equivalent to ten hours of care per week.

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- 6.3 Payments may be claimed in respect of children aged 15 or under or in respect of other dependants where there is medical or social work evidence that care is required.
- 6.4 Only one weekly payment may be claimed in respect of the household of each member, except in special circumstances to be judged by the Council's Standards Committee.
- 6.5 The allowance is payable to elected Members as a reimbursement of incurred expenditure against receipts but it is not payable in respect of care provided by member of the claimant's own household or any of their relatives.
- 6.6 Any dispute as to entitlement and any allegations of abuse should be referred to the Council's Standards Committee for adjudication.
- 6.7 The maximum hourly rate and corresponding weekly rate shall be increased in line with any 'in year' or annual increases in respect of the hourly rate for home care identified in the Council's policy on charging for non-residential care services and shall be so indexed for a period of four years commencing on 1 April 2021 and ending on 31 March 2024.

7. Co-optees Allowance

- 7.1 No allowance is payable to co-optees.
- 7.2 That co-optees of Committees, Sub-Committees and standing Forums and independent persons appointed to serve on Education Appeals/Review Panels and the Independent Remuneration Panel may claim appropriate (staff) travel and subsistence allowances for expenditure incurred on approved duties both in-borough and out of borough.

8. Civic Allowance

- 8.1 An annual Civic Allowance shall be paid to the following office holders, in accordance with the amounts shown below, subject to approval at Council on 21 September 2020;

Position	% of Leader's SRA	% of Mayor's Allowance	Allowance
	%	%	£
Mayor	100	100	15,012
Deputy Mayor	25	33	5,004

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Mayoress/Consort	0		*
Deputy Mayoress/Consort	0		*

8.2 The civic SRA is set at a level equivalent to the 100% of the Leader's allowance with no consort allowances being identified.

8.3 Should Council wish to identify a consort allowance a figure of £1250 (Mayor's Consort) and £1000 (Deputy Mayor's Consort) are recommended with the figures being deducted from the Mayor and Deputy Mayor's allowance respectively. It is recommended that transitional arrangements of current allowances for the incoming Mayor and Consort and Deputy Mayor and Consort in 2020/21 (Cllr Creaghan) would be appropriately available to them during their period of Mayor and Deputy.

9. Pensions

9.1 No Member shall be eligible to join the Local Government Pension Scheme.

10. General Provisions

10.1 In respect of all allowances applied on an annual basis, the allowance shall be reduced for part year's service, so that where the term of office of a Member begins or ends otherwise than at the beginning or end of a year, entitlement to the allowance shall be in the same proportion as the number of days served bears to a full year.

10.2 A Member may elect to forego all, or part, of his/her allowances.

10.3 No annual index will be applicable to any allowance, except in the case of:-

- Out of Borough Travel and Subsistence Allowances; • Childcare and Dependants' Carers Allowances; and
- Basic Allowance (from April 2016 only).

The index in relation to Out of Borough Travel is the staff rate. The index in respect of Subsistence Allowance does not extend to the rates for London, which will be determined separately for councillors. The index for the Basic Allowance is the percentage for inflation based on any positive value of the Consumer Price Index as at March immediately prior to the introduction of a new Scheme.

10.4 Members will be supported by a range of services provided directly by the Council, as determined by the Democratic Services Manager, following consultation with the Councillor Development Forum and relevant Cabinet Member. Services currently provided include the following:-

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- Access to a budget of £1,000 towards capital expenditure per Councillor per 4 year term of office. The allocation is to be used for the provision of ICT equipment. This is to include the purchase of laptop/tablet/pc, initial purchase of portable telephony eg blackberry/I Phone etc if applicable, telephone handset (home use), routers/fobs/licenses/Bring your Own Device App, home furniture for office use and printers etc.

The capital allocation will not be paid up front, but rather an individual account/spreadsheet will be kept and managed by Democratic and Member Services for each Member identifying a running total. If a Councillor decides to have the equipment provided by the Council, the cost of the equipment will be deducted from the running total.

Should a Councillor decide to procure equipment outside the range provided by the Council, the equipment will need to have the appropriate securities placed on it and conform to the standards set by the ICT Service.

- Access to the Warrington Rewards Scheme;