



## LOCAL AUTHORITIES (MEMBERS ALLOWANCES) (ENGLAND) REGULATIONS 2003

### MEMBERS ALLOWANCES INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

#### PUBLICATION OF THE PANEL'S RECOMMENDATIONS

NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to the above Regulations the report of the Independent Panel regarding the City Council's Members Allowances Scheme has been received. The main features of the Panel's recommendations, suggested for introduction from 18 May 2011, are set out below. The Panel's recommendations will be considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 19 January 2011, Principal Scrutiny Committee on 24 January 2011 and Council on 24 February 2011 which will decide whether to implement them. Copies of the Panel's report are available for inspection by the public, during normal office hours, at the City Offices, Colebrook Street, Winchester, or on the Council's website at [www.winchester.gov.uk](http://www.winchester.gov.uk) Copies may also be purchased for a fee of £15.

Post	Basic Allowance	Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA)
<b>Basic Allowance</b>		
All Members	£5,874	-
<b>Band One</b>		
Leader	£5,874	£17,616
<b>Band Two</b>		
Deputy Leader with a Portfolio	£5,874	£9,612
<b>Band Three</b>		
Deputy Leader without a Portfolio	£5,874	£8,007
Cabinet Member with a Portfolio	£5,874	£8,007
Chairman of Principal Scrutiny Committee	£5,874	£8,007
Chairman of Planning (Development Control) Committee	£5,874	£8,007
Leader of Principal Opposition Group	£5,874	£8,007
<b>Band Four</b>		
Chairman of Personnel Committee	£5,874	£3,204
Chairman of Licensing & Regulation Committee	£5,874	£3,204
<b>Band Five</b>		
Chairman of the Council	£5,874	£2,403
Other Opposition Group Leaders	£5,874	£2,403
Chairmen of Scrutiny Panels	£5,874	£2,403
Vice Chairman of Planning (Development Control) Committee	£5,874	£2,403
<b>Band Six</b>		
Chairman of Winchester Town Forum	£5,874	£1,602
Chairmen of Task & Finish &/or Ad Hoc Working Groups/Panels with Significant Impact	£5,874	£1,602
Group Managers	£5,874	£1,602

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The Panel assessed that the time needed to fulfil the role of the ordinary Member should be reflected in the Basic Allowance. Councillors who hold posts with a substantial additional time commitment and responsibility are also entitled to a Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA) as set out in the above table. The scheme provides some flexibility and not all of the posts within the scheme will necessarily be allocated at any one time. A Member may claim no more than one SRA and not more than half the Members of the Council can receive a SRA at any one time.

For any other Opposition Group Leader to qualify for a SRA (Band 5) the Group must have at least 5 Members. At Band 6 to qualify for the Group Manager SRA the Group must have at least 19 Members.

The Panel also recommended that the Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances, Co-optees' Allowances, Dependant Carers Allowance and Subsistence Allowances be indexed to the local government staff annual percentage increase, as agreed by the National Joint Councils for Local Government Staff Service (NJC), in the event that the Council decides that there are no material issues to require a further report of the Panel in a particular year. Mileage rates should be indexed to Inland Revenue rates. In general the Panel's recommendations reflect rates used for the Basic Allowances and SRA Bands in 2009/10 before the Council adopted a 5% reduction in 2010/11 for economic reasons. In view of the Employers' stated position that there will be no staff pay increase for 2010/11 and 2011/12, the Council will need to consider whether the NJC index in the Scheme should be applied for the 2011/12 Municipal Year.

The Panel recommended inflation increases for the allowances set out below, resulting in the following figures:-

#### **Dependants' Carers' Allowance**

Actual and reasonable costs up to £8.50 per hour

#### **Co-opted and Independent Members**

Chairman of the Standards Committee - £3,204.

Independent Members and Parish Representatives on the Standards Committee - £255 pa.

#### **Travel and Subsistence**

All travel allowances, including those for co-opted representatives, Independent Members and Parish Representatives, to be paid at the following rates:-

Cars and Vans - 40p per mile (plus 5p per mile when one or more passengers carried)  
Motor Cycles - 24p per mile  
Bicycles - 20p per mile  
Public transport may also be used in appropriate circumstances at actual cost

\*\* Subsistence rates as follows:-

Breakfast	£5.58	Overnight stay (outside the district)	£90.56
Lunch	£7.69	Overnight stay (London)	£103.27
Tea	£3.02		
Evening Meal	£9.50		

\*\* The Panel has recommended that the Subsistence rates previously paid for attending approved duties within the Winchester District be abolished.

The Travel and Subsistence rates within the Scheme are also recommended for use by Parish Councils who wish to adopt them.

The Panel has also recommended that the definition of approved duties is extended to include Shadow Cabinet Members (Principal Opposition Group) when they are attending Cabinet Meetings and when attending internal meetings when invited by a Senior Officer – the definition of ‘Senior Officer’ to be defined by Council.

## **Pensions**

The Panel recommended that Members be eligible to join the Local Government Pension Scheme, which could include both the Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances.

Stephen Whetnall  
Corporate Director (Governance)

10 January 2010