

Sunderland City Council

This Notice is published in accordance with the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003

At its meeting on 22 January 2025 the Council considered recommendations from its Independent Remuneration Panel in respect of the Allowances Scheme for 2025/2026. The Panel recommended changes to the Basic Allowance, including the application of indexation, changes to the allowance for Opposition leaders and removal of the allowances for Cabinet Secretary and Deputy Cabinet Member positions. The Council accepted the Panel's recommendations. The main provisions of the Scheme adopted for 2025/2026 are summarised below.

Type of Allowance	Amount per annum £
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Basic Allowance	8,620*
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*This figure is the previous level of basic allowance plus an uplift applied in line with the increase in the CPI published in February 2025.

The Basic Allowance may be adjusted annually in line with any increase in the CPI published in the February prior to the relevant financial year, with this indexation to apply up to a maximum period of four years.

Special Responsibility Allowances

Leader of the Council	37,667
Deputy Leader of the Council	25,111
Cabinet Member with Portfolio	20,716

Leader of an Opposition Group comprised of at least 8 members (Where no Opposition Group has at least eight members, allowance to be paid to single largest Opposition Group or divided equally between Opposition Groups where the largest are of equal size, as applicable.)	5,000
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Chair of the following:

Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee	12,556
Thematic Scrutiny Committee	5,179
Area Committee	10,350
Licensing and Regulatory Committee	8,369
Planning and Highways Committee	8,369

Vice Chair of the following:

Area Committee	6,277
Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee	6,277

Licensing and Regulatory Committee	4,184
Planning and Highways Committee	4,184

Co-optees' Allowances

Audit and Governance Committee

Chairman	5,000
Independent member	2,500

Mayoral

Mayoral Allowance	12,000
Deputy Mayoral	6,000

Carer's allowance

Actual expenditure up to a maximum of the equivalent of the current National Living Wage or National Minimum Wage hourly rate, as appropriate, dependent upon the age of the worker. The rate applicable shall be subject to automatic increases in line with uprating of the Adult National Living Wage and National Minimum Wage.

Travel Allowances (for elected members and co-optees)

Motor Cycle allowance	24p per mile
Bicycle Allowance	20p per mile
Car Allowance	45p per mile for first 10,000 mile and 25p thereafter
Passenger Supplement	5p per mile for the passenger (not exceeding 4)

The above rates match His Majesty's Revenue and Customs authorised mileage rates and will be updated when HMRC publishes revised allowances

Subsistence Allowances (for elected members and co-optees)

In the case of absence from the usual place of residence for a continuous period which exceeds 4 hours but does not involve an overnight absence, subsistence is payable as set out below:

Breakfast Allowance	£6.22
Lunch Allowance	£8.55
Tea Allowance	£3.37
Evening Meal Allowance	£10.59

Overnight Accommodation

The allowance will not be claimable as an allowance as such, rather reasonable costs of an overnight stay (including breakfast) will be met for business class accommodation (3 star or 4 star) within and outside of London. Unless there are exceptional circumstances the Council will book the accommodation direct selecting the most economic option available and utilising the established

procurement arrangements in place. Where exceptional circumstances exist, these must be approved in advance by the Director of Finance, and reasonable costs will be reimbursed subject to submission of receipts.

Grant payable for Use of Rooms or Halls for Ward Surgeries

£15 maximum
per occasion

Telephone Calls Allowance

£15 per quarter

Broadband – actual costs to be reimbursed up to a maximum of £15 per month with a contribution from each Member of £3 per month where private use is made of the facility.

Copies of the Panel's report can be inspected at City Hall, Plater Way, Sunderland SR1 3AA (the Council's principal office) during office hours.

Copies are available free of charge.

The report can also be viewed on the Council's website www.sunderland.gov.uk

The Council is required to make available the amounts paid to each Councillor in respect of certain allowances for the previous year. The figures for the year 2024/2025 will be available for inspection at City Hall and on the Council's website by 1 May 2025.

Patrick Melia
Chief Executive
Sunderland City Council

31 March 2025