



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE  
& PETERBOROUGH  
FIRE AUTHORITY**

*Working together to improve community safety*

## **MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME**

**2023 to 2027**

**June 2024**

# **CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH FIRE AUTHORITY SCHEME OF MEMBER ALLOWANCES**

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This scheme has been adopted by Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority (the Authority), as its local scheme in accordance with the provisions of the Local Authorities (Member Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003. This scheme comes into effect on 15 June 2023 and will be reviewed by an Independent Remuneration Panel before its expiry in June 2027.
- 1.2 In this scheme the following definitions apply:
- “Member” means any Councillor appointed by a constituent authority to serve on Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority;
- “Independent Member” means a person who is not appointed by a constituent authority but by the Fire Authority itself to serve on any of its committees, subcommittees or panels.
- 1.3 Unless amended in the intervening period, this scheme covers the period 15 June 2023 to June 2027.

## **2. INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL AND PROCESS**

- 2.1 As alluded to at Paragraph 1.1 above, the Authority is legally obliged to establish a scheme of allowances for their Members. The governing regulations set out a range of requirements in relation to the content of the scheme itself and the process by which it is made. One of the key requirements of the process is that the Authority must, before determining the content of its scheme of allowances, have considered the report of an Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) established for this purpose.
- 2.2 At its meeting on 10 February 2023, the Authority approved the appointment of an IRP to review its scheme of allowances and extend the current Members' Allowances Scheme until the outcomes of the IRP were known and agreed (Minute 68 of this meeting refers).
- 2.3 During March 2023 the IRP considered all aspects of the current scheme of allowances including its structure, the number and level of allowances paid and the circumstances in which allowances may be claimed. It also conducted interviews with key stakeholders, shared a questionnaire with all current Authority Members and carried out some comparative work with other fire and rescue authorities within the family group and wider sector.
- 2.4 The IRP submitted a report of their findings and recommendations to the Authority in June 2023. Having considered the report, the recommendations

were accepted in their totality and reflected in this scheme (Minute 79 of the 15 June 2023 meeting refers).

### **3. SCHEME OF ALLOWANCES**

3.1 Members of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority are entitled to claim the following allowances, as specified in this Scheme:

- Basic Allowance
- Special Responsibility Allowance
- Travel and Subsistence Allowance

3.2 Any Member who wishes to forego entitlement to all or part of their allowances should notify the Deputy Chief Executive Officer in writing.

3.3 The Authority is obliged to make public all payments made to Members under this scheme of allowances (see Paragraph 11).

### **4. BASIC ALLOWANCE**

4.1 The Authority shall pay to each Member an annual basic allowance, as set out in Schedule 1.

4.2 The Basic Allowance is intended to contribute to expenses incurred as a result of carrying out Authority business and other semi-official activities carried out by Members for example, use of their home and telephone. The allowance is not intended to recompense Members for all the time they devote to Authority business, as it is assumed that some elements of the work of Members are undertaken on a voluntary basis.

4.3 This allowance will be paid automatically in equal monthly instalments, one month in arrears. It may be subject to tax and national insurance deductions (see Paragraph 9). The payment will be made direct to the nominated bank or building society account, normally on the last working day of each month.

4.4 If a Member is replaced on the Authority by another Member, then the basic allowance will be adjusted in accordance with the number of days to which they are entitled. If a Member is suspended or partially suspended in accordance with Part III of the Local Government Act 2000 or regulations made there under, then the allowance payable for that period shall be withheld.

### **5. SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY ALLOWANCE**

5.1 In addition to the Basic Allowance, a Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA) will be paid to Members who have special or additional responsibilities and/or hold particular posts. The categories of SRA's are set out in Schedule 1.

5.2 Members will be restricted to being in receipt of one SRA at any one time.

- 5.3 This allowance will be paid automatically in equal monthly instalments, one month in arrears. It may be subject to tax and national insurance deductions (see Paragraph 9). The payment will be made direct to the nominated bank or building society account, normally on the last working day of each month.
- 5.4 Where a Member takes up or relinquishes a post that carries a SRA during the course of a financial year, the allowance will be adjusted in accordance with the number of days to which they are entitled.
- 5.5 If a Member is suspended or partially suspended in accordance with Part III of the Local Government Act 2000 or regulations made there under, then the allowance payable for that period shall be withheld.

## **6. DEPENDENT CARERS' ALLOWANCE**

- 6.1 Under the legislation, the Authority is not entitled to pay any dependent carers' allowances.

## **7. PENSION**

- 7.1 Under the legislation, the Authority is not entitled to decide that any of its allowances be pensionable.

## **8. TRAVEL AND SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCES**

- 8.1 Travel and subsistence allowances are payable in respect of attendance at events regarded as approved duties. These relate to:
- Attendance at designated meetings as part of the internal political management process.
  - Attendance at events as the formally designated representative of the Authority.
  - Attendance by invitation at designated events as part of the advisory process.
  - Attendance at designated external conferences and courses.
- 8.2 The full range of approved duties for which travel and subsistence allowances apply is set out in Schedule 2. The level of travel and subsistence allowances payable shall be set having regard to the rates set by the National Joint Council.
- 8.3 Travelling and subsistence allowances are not payable for journeys undertaken outside the geographical County of Cambridgeshire other than for authorised attendance, on behalf of the Authority, at those meetings under Schedule 2 that are held outside the County. International travel and attendance at regional meetings held outside the region shall require approval in advance by group leaders.

8.4 Travel and subsistence allowances are not payable in relation to:

- A social function of any nature other than civic, ceremonial or courtesy visits by the Chair in relation to his/her area of responsibility or by any other Member on behalf of the Chair of the Authority.
- Attending parish council meetings, Members' surgeries or consultation (other than as the Authority's formally designated representative) or unofficial visits to local fire service establishments.
- Voluntary attendance at any meeting of the Authority's committee meetings, an outside body or other organisation.
- Visits by Members to Authority offices to undertake research or for individual discussions with Officers on issues of general interest only and not related to a local constituency issue.
- Attendance at any party political or union meeting.

8.5 Where Members are unsure as to whether a particular event is eligible for the payment of travel and subsistence allowances, they should consult the Deputy Chief Executive Officer who shall be authorised to determine whether these allowances should apply.

## **9. TAX AND NATIONAL INSURANCE (NI) ARRANGEMENTS**

9.1 This section is intended to provide a brief summary, for information purposes, of the tax implications associated with the allowances set out in this scheme. The Authority does not guarantee that the information is necessarily accurate or appropriate for individual Members. It is for each Member to satisfy themselves personally that their tax and insurance arrangements are in order.

9.2 Basic and SRAs are all subject to income tax and NI as they are payments made in respect of duties of an office. Travel and subsistence may be the subject of income tax and Members are asked to keep appropriate records to satisfy any enquiries the Tax Office may make.

9.3 Tax will be deducted at the basic rate unless the Authority is notified to the contrary by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC).

9.4 NI contributions on allowances will be in accordance with the prevailing HMRC guidance and the Authority is not responsible for checking aggregated figures for individual Members sources of income.

9.5 Members who are self-employed or have elected to pay reduced rate NI contributions will need to discuss this with HMRC.

9.6 The receipt of allowances from the Authority may affect Members who are receiving Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) Benefits. All allowances should be declared to the DWP who will advise Members of any impact on their

benefits. Members should note that failure to disclose any allowance to the DWP may result in prosecution.

**10. INDEXING OF ALLOWANCES**

10.1 Under normal circumstances, the basic allowance and SRAs will be automatically updated each year for inflation in line with the National Joint Council increase applied to staff salaries. This arrangement will apply for a maximum of 4 years, before the scheme has to be reviewed.

**11. PUBLIC INSPECTION**

11.1 In accordance with the legislation, the Authority is obliged to publish details of the total sum paid during the financial year to each recipient. Records of payments must be made available for inspection to the public on request.

**12. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE**

12.1 Authority meetings are important, formal events with a clear purpose – to make decisions. Each Member of the Authority has a responsibility to attend meetings when summoned to do so; the notice to attend an Authority meeting is, in law, a summons. This encompasses attendance at full Authority meetings and any committees, subcommittees or panels to which a Member is assigned.

12.2 Every Member of the Authority attending a meeting of the Authority or any of its committees shall sign their name in the attendance sheet provided for that purpose. Where a Member fails to attend two consecutive meetings, for whatever reason, the Monitoring Officer will initiate discussions with the Member concerned and, if appropriate, their political group leader. The Monitoring Officer may, in consultation with the Group Leader, write to the Chief Executive of the Member's unitary authority to seek removal of the Member and the appointment of an alternative Member should non-attendance continue.

**13. OFFICER CONTACTS**

13.1 If Members require any assistance with particular aspects of the scheme, please contact the relevant Officer as indicated below:

Monitoring Officer	01480 444500
Payroll Officer	01480 444543

## SCHEDULE 1

DETAILS OF ALLOWANCE	2023/24	2024/25	COMMENTS
All Fire Authority Members	£2,724.57	£2,833.55	
Chair of the Fire Authority	£13,622.85	£14,167.75	5 x Basic Allowance
Vice Chair of the Fire Authority	£10,217.14	£10,625.81	75% of Chair
Fire Authority Leader of the Conservative Group	£8,333.95	£7,000.54	£2,833.55 plus 1/17 <sup>th</sup> of Chair per Member in Group
Fire Authority Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group	NA	NA	
Fire Authority Leader of the Labour Group	NA	NA	
Fire Authority Leader of the Independent Group	NA	NA	
Chair, Policy and Resources Committee	£5,449.14	£5,667.10	40% of Chair
Chair, Overview and Scrutiny Committee	£5,449.14	£5,667.10	40% of Chair
For ad-hoc additional responsibilities as defined by the Policy and Resources Committee	NA	NA	Withdrawn from 2023/24 as recommended by the Independent Remuneration Panel
Members sitting on Type 3 Project Boards	NA	NA	
Additional special responsibilities on Task Groups or Project Boards	£1,362.29	£1,416.77	Maximum of one ad-hoc special responsibility allowance payable at any one time 10% of Chair

### MILEAGE RATES FOR USING PRIVATE MOTOR VEHICLES

	451-999 cc	1000-1199 cc	Over 1200 cc
<b>Rates from 1 June 2021</b> Per mile up to 10000	Payment per mile will be the maximum mileage rate on which there is no taxable benefit as advised by HMRC (currently 45 p per mile)		

## SCHEDULE 2 TRAVEL AND SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCES

### 1. TRAVEL ALLOWANCES

- 1.1 Reimbursement of expenditure on travel by public transport shall not exceed the amount of the ordinary fare or any available cheap fare. In exceptional circumstances and to facilitate the conduct of the Authority's business, reimbursement of the first class fare will be payable.
- 1.2 The rate for travel by a Members own solo motor cycle shall be 24 pence per mile regardless of engine size.
- 1.3 The rate for travel by a Members own private motor vehicle shall be as per the HMRC Maximum Mileage rate (see Schedule 1).
- 1.4 The mileage rates payable will be increased in respect of the carriage of passengers based on the rate advised by HMRC, currently 5 pence per passenger, per business mile carried.
- 1.5 Expenditure incurred on tolls, ferries or parking fees, including overnight garaging will be reimbursed on production of evidence of the expenditure having been incurred, except in circumstances where no receipts are issued where this requirement will be waived.
- 1.6 The rate of travel by taxi-cab or cab shall be;
  - 1.6.1 in cases of urgency or where no public transport is reasonably available, the amount of the actual fare and any reasonable gratuity paid as indicated on a receipt,
  - 1.6.2 in any other case the amount of the fare for travel by appropriate public transport.
- 1.7 The rate of travel by a hired motor vehicle, other than a taxi-cab, shall not exceed the rate which would have been applicable had the vehicle belonged to the Member who hired it, except where authorised in advance by the Authority, where the rate may be increased to an amount not exceeding the actual cost of hiring.
- 1.8 The cost of travel by air will be reimbursed where authorised in advance by the Authority where;
  - 1.8.1 this is less than the rate applicable to travel by appropriate alternative means of transport together with an allowance equivalent to the amount of any saving in attendance allowance or financial loss allowance and subsistence allowance consequent on travel by air, or



1.8.2 the saving in time is so substantial as to justify payment of the fare for travel by air, provided that the amount shall not exceed, the ordinary fare or any available cheap fare for travel by regular air service or where no such service is available or in case of urgency, the fare actually paid by the Member.

## **2. SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCES**

2.1 The Authority will reimburse the cost of meals taken by Members in connection with approved duties involving an absence (not overnight) from the usual place of residence on production of receipt(s) up to the following maximum amounts:

i.	up to 5 hours	£5
ii.	up to 10 hours	£10
iii.	up to 15 hours	£25

2.2 In the case of an absence overnight from the usual place of residence for the purposes of attendance at an annual conference (including or not including an annual meeting) of the Local Government Association or such other association of bodies as the Secretaries of State may for the time being approve for the purpose, hotel accommodation and meals are normally booked and paid for directly by the Authority. Therefore payments of any additional allowances are not normally made.

2.3 Provided that the Member is otherwise entitled to claim subsistence allowances, Members may make claims without the production of a receipt provided that a letter is submitted in support of the claim explaining the circumstances to the Deputy Chief Executive Officer.

2.4 Subsistence allowances are not payable at meetings where a meal is provided by the Authority, whether or not the Member takes advantage of this facility, unless the Member gives at least 48 hours written notice to the Deputy Chief Executive Officer that he/she will be making their own meal arrangements on that day.

## **3. APPROVED DUTIES**

3.1 The Authority specifies the following as approved duties for the purpose of the payment of travelling and subsistence allowances:

3.2 Attendance at any meetings of the Authority, its committees, sub committees, panels and working groups, of which the claimant is a Member or has a right to attend under the Authority's standing orders.

3.3 Attendance at meetings of outside bodies to which the Authority makes appointments or nominations, including any committee or sub-committee of such a body.

- 3.4 Attendance at conferences, seminars and training events as agreed by the Authority in its calendar of meetings, or subsequently by the Chair or the Vice Chair.
- 3.5 Attendance at briefing meetings, consultation sessions and other events for Members convened by the Chief Fire Officer including bi-monthly updates between the Chief Fire Officer and Chair.
- 3.6 Exhibitions, official openings and visits to premises or similar events (including induction visits) to which Members have been invited by the Chief Fire Officer.
- 3.7 Attendance by Fire Authority appointed Members or their appointed substitutes, at any meetings of any association of authorities of which the Fire Authority is a member, or bodies to which these associations also make appointments.
- 3.8 Any other duty or class of duty approved by the Authority for the purpose of or in connection with the discharge of the functions of the Authority, or its committees, sub-committees or panels. In this instance approval would be required from the Chair or Vice Chair.
- 3.9 Travelling allowances cannot be claimed for political group meetings, or for meetings to which only one political group has been invited (except update meetings between the Chief Fire Officer and Chair).