

Members' Allowances Scheme 2026/27

The Full Council of the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham, pursuant to the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 ("the Regulations"), hereby makes the following scheme.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Members' Allowances Scheme ("the Scheme") is approved each year by the Full Council at its annual meeting. The Full Council shall have regard to any recommendations made by an independent remuneration panel before making or amending the Scheme, except where allowances are to be increased in accordance with an approved index or where no increase is proposed, subject to a review every four years.

2. Types of Allowances

- 2.1 The allowances payable are:
- a) Basic Allowance;
 - b) Special Responsibility Allowance;
 - c) Co-opted Members' Allowance;
 - d) Travelling and Subsistence Allowance;
 - e) Dependants' Carers' Allowance;
 - f) Other allowances as described in the Scheme.

3. Effective Date

- 3.1 This Scheme has effect from 23 May 2026.

4. Definitions

- 4.1 "Approved duties" means attendance by a Councillor or Co-opted Member at any:
- a) formally convened meeting of any committee or body to which the individual has been appointed or nominated by the Authority, including any sub-committees or working parties thereof;
 - b) conference, training session and presentation organised by or on behalf of the Authority which the individual is required to attend;
 - c) meeting with a Strategic or other Director where the Councillor's attendance has been requested in writing or by e-mail or where the Councillor is a member of the Cabinet.
- 4.2 "Co-opted Member" means any co-opted, added or independent Member of a Committee or other body to which this scheme relates regardless of whether or not the Co-opted Member receives a Co-opted Members' Allowance.

5. Basic Allowance

- 5.1 A Basic Allowance shall be paid to each Councillor in accordance with Appendix 1 to this Scheme.
- 5.2 The Basic Allowance shall be annually adjusted in accordance with the average local government staff pay award for the preceding year.

6. Special Responsibility Allowances

- 6.1 Special Responsibility Allowances shall be paid in accordance with Appendix 1 to this Scheme.
- 6.2 Special Responsibility Allowances shall be annually adjusted in accordance with the average local government staff pay award for the preceding year.
- 6.3 Where a Councillor would otherwise be entitled under the Scheme to more than one Special Responsibility Allowance, the entitlement shall only be to the highest allowance.
- 6.4 In the event of a person receiving a Special Responsibility Allowance being absent or substantially unable to act for a period of at least three months, the Council may resolve to reduce the level of Special Responsibility Allowance payable to that person and instead resolve to pay the allowance, or part of it, to any person appointed as a deputy or vice-chair for such period as it determines.

7. Travelling and Subsistence Allowances

- 7.1 Travelling and subsistence allowances in respect of Approved Duties undertaken by Councillors and Co-opted Members are payable in accordance with Appendix 1 to this Scheme.
- 7.2 The provisions relating to eligibility to Travelling and Subsistence Allowances apply only to Approved Duties undertaken outside the Borough. Councillors and Co-opted Members are not permitted to claim Travelling and Subsistence Allowances for any activities undertaken within the Borough.

8. Dependants' Carers' Allowance

- 8.1 The Dependants' Carers' allowance in respect of Approved Duties undertaken by Councillors and Co-opted Members shall be annually adjusted in line with the minimum London Living Wage.
- 8.2 The allowance may be claimed towards the cost of care for children or other dependants within the household who have a recognised need for care.
- 8.3 The allowance will not be payable to a member of the immediate family or household.

- 8.4 The maximum period of the entitlement will be the duration of the approved duty and reasonable travelling time.

9. Co-opted Members

- 9.1 Co-opted Members shall be paid in accordance with Appendix 1 to this Scheme.

10. School Appeal Panel Members

- 10.1 School Admissions Appeal Panel members shall be entitled to an allowance as set out in Appendix 1 to this Scheme but shall not be eligible to receive travelling, subsistence or Dependants' Carers' allowances.

11. National Insurance and Income Tax

- 11.1 Payment of allowances shall be subject to such deductions as may be statutorily required in respect of national insurance and income tax.

12. Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS)

- 12.1 In line with the Local Government Pension Scheme (Amendment) (Elected Member Pensions) Regulations 2026, all Councillors below the age of 75 shall be eligible to join the LGPS.
- 12.2 Both Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances shall be treated as amounts in respect of which such pension contributions are payable.

13. Renunciation

- 13.1 A Councillor and/or Co-opted Member may, by notice in writing to the Chief Executive, elect to forgo all or any part of his/her entitlement to an allowance under this Scheme.

14. Payments and Claims

- 14.1 Payment of Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances shall be made in instalments of one-twelfth of the amounts specified on a monthly basis, unless other arrangements are agreed.
- 14.2 Where an individual takes office part way through a year, a proportionate part of any applicable allowance is payable, unless the allowance is a Special Responsibility Allowance for serving on a committee which is appointed for a period of less than a year.
- 14.3 The Council may determine that an allowance or a rate of allowance will not come into effect until a date other than the effective date of this Scheme. In such circumstances, the alternative date that the allowance shall be payable from shall be specified in Appendix 1 to this Scheme.

- 14.4 Claims for travelling, subsistence and dependants' carers' allowance should be completed monthly and no later than three months from the date that the expenditure was incurred.

15. Councillors who are Members of another Authority

- 15.1 Any Councillor who is also a Member of another Authority shall only receive allowances from one Authority in respect of the same duties.
- 15.2 In such instances, the Councillor shall be required to nominate the Authority from whom he/she wishes to receive the allowance(s) and advise the Chief Executive accordingly.

16. Record of Allowances Paid

- 16.1 A record of the payments made by the Authority to each Councillor and Co-opted Member shall be maintained and published in accordance with the Regulations.

17. Publication of Scheme

- 17.1 As soon as practicable after the making or amendment of this Scheme, arrangements shall be made for its publication within the Authority's area in accordance with the Regulations.

Appendix 1

London Borough of Barking and Dagenham Schedule of Allowances for 2026/27

Type	Allowance (per annum unless otherwise stated)
BASIC ALLOWANCE (for all Councillors)	£14,073
SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY ALLOWANCES	
Leader of the Council	£59,154
Deputy Leader(s) of the Council	£35,141
Other Cabinet Members	£24,208
Cabinet Assistants	£8,785
Chair, Overview and Scrutiny Committee	£15,228
Deputy Chair, Overview and Scrutiny Committee	£7,614
Chair, Full Council Chair, Planning Committee	£11,714
Deputy Chair, Full Council Deputy Chair, Planning Committee	£5,857
Chair, Audit and Risk Committee Chair, Health Scrutiny Committee Chair, Licensing and Regulatory Committee Chair, Pensions Committee Chair, Personnel Board Chair, Standards Committee	£6,370
Deputy Chair, Audit and Risk Committee Deputy Chair, Health Scrutiny Committee Deputy Chair, Licensing and Regulatory Committee Deputy Chair, Pensions Committee Deputy Chair, Personnel Board Deputy Chair, Standards Committee	£3,185
Chief Whip	£8,785

Type	Allowance (per annum unless otherwise stated)
Leader(s) of the Minority Groups	£436 per seat (with a minimum of £1,414 per Minority Group Leader)
Mayor's Purse (payable under section 3(5) of Part I of the Local Government Act 1972)	£3,574
CO-OPTED MEMBERS' AND OTHER ALLOWANCES	
Independent Member (Audit and Risk Committee) Independent Chair (Pension Board)	£250 per meeting
Independent Persons (Standards Committee)	£500
School Admission Appeal Panel Members	£20 per session (up to four hours)
TRAVELLING ALLOWANCES	
Mileage Rates	• Car: 45p per mile • Motorcycle: 24p per mile • Bicycle: 20p per mile
SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCES	
Meal Allowances	• Breakfast (away between 7.00am and 11.00am) - £4.92 • Lunch (away between 12.00 noon and 2.00pm) - £6.77 • Tea (away between 3.00pm and 6.00pm) - £2.67 • Evening (away between 7.00pm and 11pm) - £8.35
Overnight (continuous period of 24 hours involving absence overnight)	• Normal - £79.82 • Greater London, AMA Annual Conference or other approved Association conferences - £91.04

Type	Allowance (per annum unless otherwise stated)
DEPENDANTS' CARERS' ALLOWANCE	£14.80 per hour effective from 22 October 2025 (equivalent to minimum London Living Wage)