

MEMBERS ALLOWANCES SCHEME 2025/26

The following scheme is made under powers conferred by Section 174 of the Local Government Act 1972 and the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 (as amended) (the Regulations).

The scheme shall be cited as the Sefton Council Members' Allowances Scheme and have effect from 1 April 2025 and for subsequent years commencing on 1 April.

Increases in Members Allowances will be linked to the average pay increase given to Sefton Council employees; and the annual adjustment in Members' Allowances will be implemented for a period of four years from April 2023 in accordance with the Regulations. This does not prevent the Independent Remuneration Panel from reviewing the Scheme at any time but allows for the Scheme to continue without a full review subject to the annual adjustment being applied.

In this Scheme, "Councillor" means a Member of Sefton Council who is a Councillor.

1. BASIC ALLOWANCE

The Basic Allowance is a flat rate sum paid to all Members. It recognises the time devoted, and expenses incurred by Members in carrying out their duties.

Subject to paragraph 4, the amount allocated for 2025/26 is £11,792.00

2. SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY ALLOWANCE

In order to recognise additional time and expenses incurred by Councillor's 80 who have significant additional responsibilities in carrying out their duties for Chapter 2 Members Sefton Council, and subject to paragraph 4, the Special Responsibility Allowances as set out below shall be paid:

With the exception of the Leader of the Council, Political Group Leaders with a membership of 10 or more members will receive a Special Responsibility Allowance which is 50% of the Basic Allowance set out in paragraph 1 above (£5,896.00) and any Political Group Leaders with fewer than 10 members will receive one tenth of £5,896.00 per Member of the Group, as set out below.

Only one Special Responsibility Allowance is paid per Member and the allowances for 2025/26 are:

Leader of the Council £29,145.00

Deputy Leaders £22,344.00

Cabinet Members £19,430.00

Committee Chairs:

Licensing and Regulatory £11,792.00

Planning £11,792.00

Audit and Governance £5,896.00

Overview and Scrutiny £5,896.00

Political Group Leaders:

Liberal Democrat Leader (9 Members) £5,307.00

Conservative Group Leader (3 Members) £1,769.00

3. PART YEAR PAYMENTS

If in the course of a year, the scheme is amended or a Councillor becomes, or ceases to be a Councillor, then all allowances shall be adjusted on a pro-rata basis.

4. RENUNCIATION

A Councillor may, by giving notice in writing to Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services elect to forgo any part of their entitlements to an allowance under the Scheme

5. MAYORAL ALLOWANCE

The allowance paid to the Mayor is linked to the Scheme of Members Allowances and the following shall be paid for 2025/26:

Mayor £17,687.00

6. APPOINTMENT TO THE LIVERPOOL CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY - TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Members appointed to sit on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Transport Committee by Sefton Council shall subject to paragraph 4 be paid a basic allowance of £7,047.00

In order to recognise additional time and expenses incurred by Councillor's who have significant additional responsibilities in carrying out their duties on the Transport Committee, the following Special Responsibility Allowances shall subject to paragraph 4 be paid if applicable:

Vice Chair of the Committee - £12,384

Lead Member for Rail and Freight - £5,504.00

7. TRAVEL AND SUBSISTENCE

Travel and Subsistence Allowances will be paid for travel to meetings etc outside of the borough which are authorised by the Council for example:

- meetings and annual conferences of Outside Bodies to which Sefton has made appointments or nominations as set out in the appendix below.
- meetings and annual conferences of Local Authority Associations of which Sefton is a member.
- meetings, conferences and other duties which have been authorised in advance by the Council, Cabinet or by a Cabinet Member.

8. DEPENDENTS CARERS ALLOWANCE

Members who incur additional expenses in order to arrange care for dependents may claim these expenses. This rate is based on the National Minimum Wage up to a maximum of ten hours per week.

9. CLAIMS AND PAYMENTS

Payments shall be made in respect of Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances in monthly instalments on the 15th day of each month by bank transfer. All claims for additional expenses must be accompanied by receipts and will therefore be paid in arrears directly into Members Bank Accounts.