

TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

SCHEME OF MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

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

The current Scheme of Members' Allowances was adopted by the Council on 11 July 2023 following consideration of recommendations of an Independent Remuneration Panel. The Scheme provides for the indexation of basic and special responsibility allowances in line with any staff pay award and the relevant allowances with effect from 1 April 2025 are set out below:

	Panel Recommendations 2023/24	Resolved Allowances 2026/27 ⁽⁴⁾
	£	£
Basic Allowance to all Councillors	5,175	5,815
Special Responsibility Allowances (SRA):		
Leader	20,706	23,267
Deputy Leader	10,353	17,488
Opposition Group Leader(s):		
• Liberal Democrat	4,401#	4,945#
• Independent Alliance Kent	N/A	4,945#
• The Green Party	4,401#	4,945#
• The Labour Party	N/A	4,945#
# Fixed lump sum		
Cabinet Member	8,802	9,891
Chair:		
Overview & Scrutiny Committee	2,589	2,909
Joint Standards Committee	2,589	2,909
Licensing & Appeals Committee	2,589	2,909
General Purposes Committee	1,725	1,938
Audit Committee	2,589	2,909

	Panel Recommendations 2023	Resolved Allowances 2026/27⁽⁴⁾
	£	£
*Area Planning Committees x 3	1,725	-
*Planning Committee	n/a	1,938
Programmed Scrutiny Select Committee x 3	2,589	2,909
Vice Chair:		
Overview & Scrutiny Committee x 2	0	727
Joint Standards Committee	0	727
Licensing & Appeals Committee	0	727
General Purposes Committee	0	484
Audit Committee	0	727
*Area Planning Committees x 3	0	-
*Planning Committee	n/a	484
Programmed Scrutiny Select Committee x 3	0	727

Opposition Group Leader allowance made up of £4,401 fixed lump sum. To qualify, neither the leader of an opposition group nor any members of the opposition leader's group can serve on Cabinet. The Opposition Group Leaders are eligible to receive a maximum of 1 Special Responsibility Allowance in addition to their group leader's allowance.

The Panel also recommended that:

- (1) Childcare and Dependent Carers allowances be set at a maximum of £10.42 per hour and £18 per hour respectively.
- (2) Mileage allowances be set at HMRC rates.
- (3) Scheme for meal and/or subsistence allowances ceased with effect from 11 July 2023.
- (4) Principle of annual indexation of allowances, including allowances for Mayor and Deputy Mayor, in line with the staff pay award be retained.
- (5) Individual members should not receive more than one Special Responsibility Allowance, excluding Opposition Group Leaders.
- (6) Individual members may choose not to accept any increase in allowance in line with the staff pay award.
- (7) The Independent Remuneration Panel's report is available for inspection by members of the public on the Council's website at www.tmbc.gov.uk or during normal office hours at the Council's principal office at Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4LZ.

*Area Planning Committees were abolished and a Planning Committee established in May 2026.

Damian Roberts
Chief Executive
July 2026

