

Oldham Council Scheme of Members Allowances 2025/2026

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Council has adopted this Scheme of Members Allowances.

2. The Basic Allowance

- 2.1 The basic allowance is paid to all members of the Council and paid to individual members proportionate to the number of days served by that member within a particular year. The Basic Allowance is set out in paragraph 7 below.
- 2.2 The basic allowance is aligned to the pay award agreed for officers on grade SCP 49 of the National Joint Council for Local Government Services terms and conditions, for a maximum of four years, upon which time the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) would review further. The scheme is currently in year two and will require further consideration by the Independent Remuneration Panel by no later than the 2027/2028 scheme.

3. Special Responsibility Allowances (SRA)

- 3.1 Special responsibility allowances are paid to members where they undertake specific duties and responsibilities. The special responsibility allowances are set out in paragraph 7 below.
- 3.2 The special responsibility allowance will be proportionate to the number of days where the member undertakes such special responsibilities and indexed at a percentage of the Executive Leader role.
- 3.3 No member is entitled to more than one SRA where it relates to internal Council business.
- 3.4 Where there is more than one Main Opposition Group of equal number, the scheme will provide an allowance for each Main Opposition Leader and Deputy Main Opposition Leader.

4. Dependants Carers Allowance

- 4.1 The Dependants Carers Allowance is paid in respect of expenses necessarily incurred in arranging for the care of children or dependants to allow:-
- a) The attendance at a meeting of the Council, Cabinet, Committees or Sub-Committees or of any other body to which the Council makes appointments or nominations or any other committee or sub-committee of such body.
 - b) The attendance at any other meeting, the holding of which is authorised by the Council, a Committee, a Sub-Committee or a Joint Committee provided that it is a meeting to which at least two political groups have been invited.
 - c) The attendance at a meeting of any association of authorities of which the Council is a member.
 - d) The performance of any duty in connection with the discharge of any function of the Council conferred by or under any enactment and empowering or requiring the Council to inspect or authorise inspection of premises.

Oldham Council Scheme of Members Allowances 2025/2026

- e) The carrying out of any other duty approved by the Council or the Chief Executive for the purpose of or in connection with the discharge of the functions of the Council or any of its committees or sub-committees including attendance on a training development course for the purpose of fulfilling the duties of an elected member.

4.2 A dependant is defined as someone who is living with a member and is:-

- A child aged 15 or under.
- An elderly relative requiring full time care.
- A relative with disabilities who requires full time care.

4.3 A member claiming the allowance shall provide medical or social work or other evidence that care is required for the purpose of the audit as requested.

4.4 The allowance shall not be payable in respect of care provided by a member of the Councillor's immediate family or household.

4.5 The carer's allowance will be capped at a maximum of ten hours in any week and the hourly rate will be the National Living Wage hourly rate. Hours may be calculated from the time of leaving home to the time of returning home following attendance on Council business as detailed above.

5. Travel and Subsistence allowances

5.1 Travel and subsistence allowances are paid in respect of expenses necessarily incurred in the exercise of duties and responsibilities shown at paragraph 4.1 above outside of the borough only. The amounts payable are indicated in Paragraph 7 of the scheme. Claims under paragraph 4.1 and 5.1 shall be made in writing to the Chief Executive within three months of the date of which the entitlement to the allowance arises.

6. Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Update Service

6.1 The Council requires all Elected Members to have a DBS check. The Members' Allowance Scheme shall provide for the Council to reimburse Councillors for the cost of subscribing to the DBS Update Service. Payment under this paragraph shall be treated as a specific administrative reimbursement under this scheme.

7. Allowance

7.1 A member may, by notice in writing to the Chief Executive, elect to forgo their entitlement or any part of their entitlement to allowances.

Oldham Council Scheme of Members Allowances 2025/2026

8. Members' allowances

Basic Allowance	Index	Amount 2025/2026
All Members of the Council		£12,212.04
Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA)	Index	Amount 2025/2026
Executive Leader	100%	£36,636.12 £6,708.52 (for Greater Manchester Combined Authority duties)
Deputy Leader	70%	£25,645.28
Executive Members	60%	£ 21,981.67
Deputy Executive Member	25%	£9,159.03
Leader of Main Opposition	50%	£18,318.06
Deputy Main Opposition Leader	20%	£7,327.22
Minority Opposition Leader (provided the group has 6 members)	15%	£5,495.42
Chairs of:	30%	£10,990.84
Licensing		
Planning		
Children and Young People Scrutiny Board		
Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Board		
Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board		
Governance, Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board		
Health and Wellbeing Board	20%	£ 7,327.22
District Leads: Central, North, East, South and West		

Appendix 2

Oldham Council Scheme of Members Allowances 2025/2026

Appointed Deputy District lead	20% of District Leads SAR	£1,465.44
Chair of Audit Committee	n/a	£ 2,473.81
Chair of Standards Committee	n/a	£781.26
Co-opted/Independent Members of Audit and Independent Persons on Standards Committee	n/a	£1,200
Greater Manchester Transport Committee/Bee Network Committee	n/a	£4,561.00
Greater Manchester Chair of Overview and Scrutiny (paid by Greater Manchester Combined Authority)	n/a	£10,311.00
Greater Manchester Scrutiny Panel Member (paid by Greater Manchester Combined Authority)	n/a	£3,437.00
Greater Manchester Scrutiny Panel substitute members (paid annually by Greater Manchester Combined Authority)	n/a	£571.00
Greater Manchester Overview and Scrutiny Committee substitute members' attendance per meeting (paid annually by Greater Manchester Combined Authority)	n/a	£144.00
Council representative on the Greater Manchester Pension Fund (GMPF) (paid by GMPF)	n/a	£1,460.00
Travel and Subsistence		Amount 2025/2026
Refreshment Allowance	n/a	£8 Lunch and £14 Evening meal
Mileage	n/a	0.45p per mile for first 10,000 miles, outside the borough, per annum and a rate of 0.25p per mile over 10,000 miles, outside the borough
Other Authorised Reimbursement		Amount 2025/2026
All Members of the Council Disclosure and Barring (DBS) Update Service		£16.00 , or the rate charged by the DBS should this change

Oldham Council Scheme of Members Allowances 2025/2026

Civic Allowances		Amount 2025/2026
Mayoral Allowance	n/a	£ 17,544.16
Deputy Mayoral Allowance	n/a	£ 3,446.73

No member is entitled to more than one SRA where it relates to internal Council business.

Section 3(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 provides for the council to pay the Mayor/Deputy Mayor allowances, but these are not defined as a Special Responsibility Allowance under the Members' Allowances Regulations 2003, but they are included in the published scheme for transparency purposes.