

Castle Point Borough Council - Members' Allowances for 2025/26

What do your Councillors do?

A total of 39 elected Councillors serve as Members of the Council. Councillors are democratically elected by, and are accountable to, the residents of their ward. They also have an overriding duty to consider the interests of the whole community to create a harmonious, local environment. Every service provided by the Council is managed in the name of the Councillors. Councillors have complex roles and they must act in several capacities, serving on various committees, and attending meetings to address Council business. Councillors who are appointed to Cabinet or positions such as Chairman of a Committee have a particularly heavy burden of Council work.

Do they get paid?

Councillors do not get a full-time salary like Council officers do. However, they are paid allowances to reflect the fact that they give up their free time to serve on the Council. Many of them, of course, have full-time jobs and perform Council work in their own time.

Who decides on Members' Allowances?

The Government has decided that councils must have a scheme to include the following types of allowance:

- A Basic Allowance (the same amount for each Councillor).
- A Special Responsibility Allowance may be paid to Councillors who hold positions that have a particularly heavy workload, such as chairman of a committee. Some members may receive more than one Special Responsibility Allowance.

Changes during 2025/26

The current scheme, implemented following new regulations that came into force in May 2003, provides for allowances to be increased annually by reference to a national earnings index. However, there were no inflationary changes in the rates paid for all types of member allowances.

How much are the allowances?

For a full year the allowances are:

Basic Allowance	£4,414
Special Responsibility Allowances	From £982 to £25,129

All these amounts are subject to income tax and national insurance. As the rates above are all annual allowances there are some instances where new or old Members have received differing amounts as they have not completed a full year.

How much does this cost?

The payments for Basic Allowances total £171,565.81 whilst Special Responsibility Allowances total £122,660.55.

What about expenses?

The Council is also allowed by law to make payments to Councillors for their travelling, subsistence and conference expenses. The following table shows the rates for travelling to meetings within the Borough:

Return Travel Distance	Annual Payment
0 to 5 miles	£120.36
5 to 10 miles	£240.72
10 to 15 miles	£360.96

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For travel outside the Borough the Council paid up to 52.2p per mile (taxable above 45p), depending on their vehicle engine size. There is also a range of subsistence allowances for meals and for the cost of overnight stays, for example when attending conferences.

How can I find out what individual Councillors get?

By law, the Council has to publish the amounts of Basic Allowances and Special Responsibility Allowances paid to Councillors in each financial year. The Council therefore publishes the details annually on the Council's website. The table that appears on the following page shows the amounts paid to each Councillor during the financial year from April 2025 to March 2026. In some cases, these may include amounts relating to a prior financial year.

Can I see the records?

Yes - by law, the Council has to keep records of the payments made to Councillors for Basic, Special Responsibility, and Travel and Subsistence Allowances. The law allows a local government elector to inspect these records at any reasonable time. Anyone wishing to inspect should make an appointment to make sure that Council officers are not working on the records and that they can be made available.

What about the Mayor?

The Mayor is the Borough's civic head and has an extensive programme of civic duties over and above the normal duties of a Councillor. The Mayor represents the Borough on many civic occasions and meets people from many other bodies. He or she attends many additional functions and civic events each year. Clearly, this involves much greater expense and the Council makes allowances to both the Mayor and Deputy Mayor to help them meet the expenses arising from their positions:

Mayor (to 20 th May 2025)	£841.37	Lynsey McCarthy-Calvert
Deputy Mayor (to 20 th May 2025)	£395.94	Barry Campagna
Mayor (from 21 st May 2025)	£6,693.25	Barry Campagna
Deputy Mayor (from 21 st May 2025)	£3,315.58	Kate Knott

Mayoral allowances are also subject to income tax and national insurance and are not included in the table on the following page.

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The following schedule is required to be published under the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003.

Name	Basic Allowance	Special Responsibility Allowance	Travel & Subsistence Payments	Total Payments
	£	£	£	£
Sharon Ainsley	4,413.56	0.00	240.72	4,654.28
Nicola Benson	4,413.56	0.00	120.36	4,533.92
David Blackwell	4,413.56	25,128.78	360.96	29,903.30
Kieron Bowker	4,413.56	4,413.56	120.36	8,947.48
Lorraine Breading	4,413.56	0.00	240.72	4,654.28
Susan Brooke	4,413.56	0.00	240.72	4,654.28
Barry Campagna	4,413.56	0.00	555.12	4,968.68
Timothy Copsey	4,413.56	8,827.16	120.36	13,361.08
Matthew Cortes	4,413.56	0.00	120.36	4,533.92
Michael Dearson	4,413.56	0.00	120.36	4,533.92
Laurence Dixon	4,413.56	0.00	120.36	4,533.92
Allan Edwards	4,413.56	4,413.60	20.50	8,847.66
Michael Fuller	4,413.56	8,827.16	240.72	13,481.44
Warren Gibson	4,413.56	18,483.33	191.56	23,088.45
Thomas Gibson	4,413.56	8,827.16	120.36	13,361.08
Aimme Harbinson	4,413.56	0.00	120.36	4,533.92
Nigel Harvey	4,413.56	2,206.80	240.72	6,861.08
Gareth Howlett	4,413.56	0.00	120.36	4,533.92
Jamie Huntman	4,413.56	981.72	240.72	5,636.00
Diana Jones	4,413.56	0.00	120.36	4,533.92
John Knott	4,413.56	2,206.80	120.36	6,740.72
Katherine Knott	4,413.56	0.00	120.36	4,533.92
Reece Langley	3,850.53	0.00	0.00	3,850.53
Lorraine Larman	4,413.56	0.00	120.36	4,533.92
Robert Lillis	4,413.56	8,827.16	120.36	13,361.08
Duncan Macpherson	4,413.56	0.00	120.36	4,533.92
Peter May	4,413.56	0.00	240.72	4,654.28
Lynsey McCarthy-Calvert	4,413.56	0.00	120.36	4,533.92
Stephen Mountford	4,413.56	8,827.16	120.36	13,361.08
Nanine Pachy	4,413.56	0.00	120.36	4,533.92
Barry Palmer	4,413.56	8,827.16	240.72	13,481.44
Janice Payne	4,413.56	0.00	360.96	4,774.52
Carole Sach	4,413.56	0.00	360.96	4,774.52
Russell Savage	4,413.56	8,827.16	120.36	13,361.08
Dean Silk	4,413.56	0.00	120.36	4,533.92
David Thomas	4,413.56	0.00	240.72	4,654.28
Grace Watson	4,413.56	3,035.84	240.72	7,690.12
Benn Wimbledon	4,413.56	0.00	240.72	4,654.28
Graham Withers	4,413.56	0.00	360.96	4,774.52
Total allowances paid	171,565.81	122,660.55	7,266.14	301,492.50