

# CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

## REPORT TO: COUNCIL

---

**Date of Meeting:** 15 December 2011  
**Report of:** Democratic and Registration Services Manager  
**Subject/Title:** Member Mileage Rates

---

### 1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 This report will enable Council to consider the mileage allowance which may be claimed by Councillors when travelling on approved Council business.

### 2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 That the current Scheme of Members' Allowances be amended to reflect the following mileage rates which may be claimed by Members of the Council:

Miles per annum	451-999 cc	1000+ cc
Per mile, first 8,500	46.9p	52.2p
Per mile, after 8,500	13.7p	14.4p

- 2.2 That the above rates shall apply to all claims for reimbursement of the cost of travel with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> December 2011.
- 2.3 That the Borough Solicitor and Monitoring Officer be authorised to make consequential changes to the Scheme of Members' Allowances, which forms part of the Constitution.

### 3.0 Background and Options

- 3.1 The Scheme of Members' Allowances currently provides for Members to be reimbursed in respect of travel on Approved Duties.
- 3.2 At full Council on 21 April 2011 members agreed that the car rate, which may be claimed per mile, should be as follows:

Miles per annum	451-999 cc	1000-1199 cc	1200+ cc
Per mile, first 8,500	46.9p	52.2p	65.0p
Per mile, after 8,500	13.7p	14.4p	16.4p

- 3.3 The rates reflect, and on the recommendation of the Independent Remuneration Panel are linked to, the National Joint Council for Local Government Services - Casual User Officer rates.
- 3.4 However, the recent collective agreement with trades unions and officers of Cheshire East Council has resulted in a reduction of the mileage rates which may be claimed by officers of this Council from those set out in the NJC Agreement. These are now as follows:

<b>Miles per annum</b>	<b>451-999 cc</b>	<b>1000+ cc</b>
Per mile, first 8,500	46.9p	52.2p
Per mile, after 8,500	13.7p	14.4p

- 3.5 Following the collective agreement, Group Leaders have expressed their support for a reduction in the mileage rate which may be claimed by Members, notwithstanding that the current scheme links rates payable to the NJC scheme.
- 3.6 If Council resolved to do so, the Scheme of Member Allowances could be amended to reflect the rates which apply to officers, as set out in paragraph 3.4.
- 3.7 Group Leaders have indicated that any new mileage rates should apply with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> December 2011. Council could resolve that this should be the case, effectively backdating any reduction.
- 3.8 In the meantime the Portfolio holder for Resources has requested that a feasibility study be undertaken to look at the practical implications of a flat rate being paid to members in respect of reimbursement for Travel Allowances, which is a practice already adopted by a number of Authorities. Members would have the opportunity to comment fully on any such scheme.
- 3.9 It should also be noted that, whilst the Allowances Scheme provides for Members to claim for mileage incurred at the stated rates, Members may opt to claim at the HMRC rate of 45p per mile.

#### **4.0 Financial Implications**

- 4.1 There would be a potential financial saving of approximately £20k per annum, if the recommendations of this report were agreed.

#### **5.0 Legal Implications**

- 5.1 Any change to the Scheme of Members Allowances would necessitate a consequential change to the Constitution.

## **6.0 Access to Information**

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

Name: Brian Reed

Designation: Democratic and Registration Services Manager

Tel No: 01270 686670

Email: [brian.reed@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:brian.reed@cheshireeast.gov.uk)