

Liberal Democrats have consistently called for lower councillor allowances in Lambeth - reflecting the financial crisis that the borough faces.

There have been conflicting claims about votes at the council meeting on 1st June 2026 on councillors' Special Responsibility Allowances (SRA). All Lambeth councillors receive a basic allowance of £16,359 but only some receive an additional SRA. Here is a summary of the key decisions.

1. Whose proposals were most expensive?

Overall the Green proposals were most expensive - at £501,298 annually, and the Liberal Democrat proposals were the cheapest, at £367,500 annually.

	Green proposal	Liberal Democrat proposal	Labour proposal
Overall	501,298	377,500	429,288
Difference from Greens		-123,798	-72,010

2. What were the key differences between proposals?

The Greens proposed:

1. **A higher allowance for the council leader** - £46,435 compared to £40,000 proposed by Labour and Liberal Democrats.
2. **Higher allowances for the two deputy council leaders and 7 full time equivalent Cabinet Members** - £32,603 compared to £25-28,000 proposed by Labour and Liberal Democrats.
3. **A higher allowance for their Chief Whip.**
4. **Creation of a second Chief Whip job.**
5. **Higher allowances for committee chairs - totalling £91,217.**
6. **Lower allowances for opposition parties.**

Labour's proposal (which was adopted) was largely the opposite of all of these.

The Liberal Democrats proposed lower allowances across the board - saving £133,798 compared to the Greens, and £72,010 compared to Labour. The key differences were:

- Lower allowances for all Cabinet roles.
- Opposing the additional Chief Whip role added by the Greens.
- No allowance for the vice Chair of the Planning Committee.

What	Green proposal	Liberal Democrat proposal	Labour proposal
Leadership			
Leader of the Council	£46,435	£40,000	£40,000
Deputy Leader of the Council	£32,603	£25,000	£28,000
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Cabinet Member	£32,603	£25,000	£28,000
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Cabinet Member		£25,000	
Cabinet Member (job share)	£16,301		£14,000
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Cabinet Member (job share)	£16,301		
Chief Whip	£16,301	£9,000	£15,000
Chief Whip	£16,301		
	Green proposal	Liberal Democrat proposal	Labour proposal
Leadership sub total	£388,764	£274,000	£307,000

Committees	Green proposal	Liberal Democrat proposal	Labour proposal
Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee	£18,514	£15,000	£18,514
Vice-Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee	£6,859	£6,000	£6,000
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Vice-Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee		£6,000	£6,000
Planning Applications Committee: Chair	£18,514	£15,000	£18,514
Planning Applications Committee: Vice-Chair	£6,352		£6,000
Licensing Committee and Sub-Committee: Chair	£11,432	£10,000	£11,432
Audit and Risk Committee: Chair	£5,539	£5,000	£5,539
Fostering and Adoption Panel: Chair	£4,573	£4,500	£4,573
Pensions Committee: Chair	£5,716	£5,000	£5,716
	Green proposal	Liberal Democrat proposal	Labour proposal
Committees sub total	£91,217	£78,500	£94,288

Mayors (ceremonial)			
Mayor civic allowance	£18,239	£18,239	£18,239
Deputy Mayor civic allowance	£6,081	£6,081	£6,081
Mayors sub total	£24,320	£24,320	£24,320
Opposition			
Leader of the Majority Opposition Group	£16,302	£15,000	£18,000
Leader of the Minority Opposition Group	£5,016	£10,000	£10,000
Majority opposition whip	£8,151	£9,000	£13,400
Minority opposition whip	£2,508	£6,000	£6,200
Other sub total	£21,317	£25,000	£28,000

Where was there agreement?

All parties agreed on:

- Allowances for the (largely ceremonial) Mayor and Deputy Mayor.
- No change to the basic allowance that every councillor receives (in addition to the SRA that some receive).
- Abolishing the following posts that existed when Labour previously ran the council:
 - Four deputy cabinet members.
 - Three policy leads.
 - One deputy chief whip

As the Liberal Democrats are the smallest party with eight councillors, on 1 June we had to decide which of the larger groups' proposals to support. As the totals above show, Labour's proposals were closer to ours, and so on this issue we voted for their proposal.