

Results of consultation on Board Members loss of earnings: Derby Homes News

Comments
DH has cut back on warden service, always being told not enough money to carry out repairs. BMs should attend meetings voluntarily.
Form says £45 per hour. Should this not be 'up to' a maximum of £45 per hour? If not –I think you will get a stampede of eager would be board members!! –Me included please.
Very Good Scheme & Rate
Provided it is not abused by some members
Board Members attend meetings on voluntary basis so should not expect to be paid for it. Also the amount of £45 per hour is too much. With £20,000 per year being paid into their bank accounts they would not have to go to work. How is this going to be paid for? Another raise in council tax?
£45 per hour seems excessive. Would be better if the rate was determined on an individual basis, geared to actual loss of earnings.
Payment should be a minimum of £15,000 per year and £25 per hour.
It is the least that can happen. It's not like all are going to claim, but it might make a real difference to some board members who are less financially fortunate. Why should they give up their time for nothing, especially as their work may benefit tenants
I agree that Board Members should be paid for loss, but I think £45 per hour is an extortionate amount to pay
I agree with the scheme, but on the other hand I think the claim is a little high and should be cut down by a third.
I can't see how Board Members can accumulate £45 per hour for time out of work, or for expenses.
I do not agree as that kind of money could be spent on other, more important things. If you can afford to do that why are you cutting back on Wardens & Sheltered Housing?
Board Members should be reimbursed for loss of earnings as they provide a useful service to the community and take interest in welfare standards etc.
£45 per hour seems too much, how many people earn £45 per hour?
Certainly not, £45 an hour as most people who go out to work, earn far less than that.
The hourly rate seems rather high.
Derby Homes say that they are trying to cut staffing levels to save money, how can you justify doing this when so many Scheme Managers have had to go. Please don't say it's because of Supporting People money being cut, I do not believe it.
Provided the Scheme is not taken advantage of.
To offer £45 per hour is outrageous, everyone will jump on the bandwagon at Council Tax payers expense. Pay them basic, minimum wage as a lot of folk are on.
Most will get paid out by their companies anyway I guess.
To help with repairs needed.
I think £45 per hour is over the top, Who's on the Board? Tony Blair?
I think you should start at £30 per day, which I think is more reasonable.
They work hard to help us.
Yes I agree, but £45 per hour does seem to be too high a figure. Perhaps a lower figure would be more realistic in view of the present financial state within Derby Homes.
I think £45 per hour is totally unacceptable. This will attract the wrong type of person, not those of the serving kind. In this city there are plenty of people willing to be Board Members for no payment, or minimum expenses.
I can understand wanting to pay Board Members for the loss of earnings, but who is on £45 per hour? Are all BM's, Solicitors, Brain Surgeons, CEOs etc? The answer is no, not at these rates. Are Derby Homes that well off they can pay those rates?
Members like to say they are involving themselves, selflessly in the Community. Using money to pay them diverts it from benefiting the Community at large.

£45 per hour is Ridiculously high.
I think that Board Members should not be allowed to claim loss of earnings. It should be done on a voluntary basis, because some members do it for the money, and do not put their commitment to the job. Money should be spent on the elderly.
But I think 45 pounds per hour is far too much.
It is too much money an hour, everyone at work would like £45 per hour
We assume that all Board Members were aware of the situation when joining, and at a rate of £45 per hour, are all in the £90,000 per annum bracket. I think that this is just another way for the well to do to bleed a little bit more from the Council funds when it could be put to better use. Further more to assume only a few will take the scheme up.
The amounts considered are extreme expenses. Yes how long before Panel Members receive payment. Perhaps you (Derby Homes) should introduce a Scheme to compensate Wardens & Ex Wardens amounts owing to them. These have been outstanding minimum of 5 years
Yes but £45 per hour I think is greedy
Strictly speaking the issue of Board Members claiming for loss of earnings is a matter for equal opportunities. The present membership of the Board may not benefit, but who is to say that there are no potential tenant Board Members who are in employment and feel inhibited about coming forward because they cannot afford to lose wages
To pay this amount per hour... If you want to pay people to have time off work, pay them for the time they go to the meetings only. 2 or 3 hours. If they are going to Annual Meetings or Conferences this is different, but they don't have to be paid £45 per hour. There are not many people earning this kind of money an hour, unless Derby Homes are paying it to their staff, if so could you find me a job for this sort of money.
Board Members choose to do this service, it adds to their experience when applying for the positions or other employment. They would not have applied for the posts, if it's making an impact on their finances, as they are already paid expenses The system should not be changed as they already gain as much as they lose.
Only if it means that members understand they joined to help improve matters, and perhaps use holiday time from work instead of claiming. That way it would give more important problems may be a little more money for use.
I think £45 Per hour is going well over the top.
No way! Spend more on looking after tenants, and less on Management etc, too many bosses doing nothing at Derby Homes. They should be out on the streets, sorting out bad tenants with bad kids damaging the estate.
Any person who applied to become a Board Member and was in full time work, must surely have known if they would or would not be paid for attending meetings during their normal working hours. They should stand the loss of wages themselves and only continue to claim for out of pocket expenses. Meetings could also take place in the evenings, when staff could attend on a flexi time basis. Thereby saving extra pounds from Derby Homes Finances.
£45 per hour That seems an awful lot of money, a normal hourly rate of pay would be much fairer, but this is absolutely ridiculous and an insult to people who they are supposed to be serving. They I can guarantee are on nowhere near £45 an hour or even a day.
They should be allowed to claim for loss of earnings but not at £45 per hour but their general rate. After all they have freely volunteered to do this work. Also out of pocket expenses should still be paid. £45 per hour is ridiculous as this is what I live on a week. £20,000 is an average wage a year. I wouldn't mind the job.
The sum suggested is ridiculous, people sit on these Committees / Boards of their own choice and not for Financial gain, this should remain so. With the probability of being able to claim not earn £20,000. It is another job and not acceptable. This is 8 times my yearly pension – disgusting.
These people through personal choice give their time voluntary. To suggest paying them such inflated sums of money to these civic minded people is totally obscene. It would definitely lead to abuse and fraudulent claims, plus encourage the wrong types of people. Less civic minded to be Board Members.
These posts are voluntary and should be treated as such.
I think that they should be paid for loss of earnings, but I think that this is a bit excessive.

Only for Members who may experience financial difficulties by attending, and have the appropriate number of attendancies to these meetings to qualify.
Only if they can prove the amount lost while at meetings, because £45 seems a lot of money per hour.
Certainly not £45 per hour, a reasonable amount would be £10 - £15 per hour.
£45 per hour is off the mark, no one gets paid that help to pay for travelling costs.
Yes
There is enough money being handed out to the Councillors already as expenses. Without adding this lot to it. There are enough snouts in the rough already. If they cannot do the job in their own time, then don't do it.
It was their choice to become a Board Member.
It would be reasonable if the amount claimed were minimum wage. £45 per hour is excessive especially as Derby Homes runs out of money or repairs every year and also commitments to replace windows with UPVC have delayed for 5 years. Put the money into the house maintenance.
Because they lose hours which they are supposed to be paid for attending meetings
Reasonable out of pocket expenses is perfectly acceptable but £45 per hour is over the top. And opens the door to all sorts of accusations. A nice little earner on the side is one that would be difficult to defend, the Derby Public are already concerned with the increases in Council Tax demands. The initiative does nothing to placate these concerns, insulting would not be too strong a response.
If claims are to be funded by Rent or Rates or Community Tax, rate payers should not have to pay. Councillors expenses should also be stopped. Nobody should be paid thousands of pounds for being a Vice or Chairman of a department ridiculous.
They knew they would not be paid when they took on the job. I do not think they should be paid this amount of money, then jobs are being cut to balance the books. They also knew that they would have to attend meetings and trainings.
If it works on expenses at the moment why change?
Yes I think it's ok, they should not be out of pocket for helping you with a service., but I do think that £45 per hour is way too much (who earns this amount) I think it a more sensible amount should be sorted. £20.000 is the amount some people earn in a year, I think between 5 and 10K is more than enough.
Board Members are not forced to become Members, They undertake the activities as Board Members knowing what is involved, any payment undermines the voluntary nature of the position.
Board Members will be undertaking a hard task, for the benefit of Tenants, and therefore should be reimbursed for the loss of earnings.
I think board Members should get expenses paid them. Both those who work and those who do not work.
Some residents of Derby Homes are having to live off £45 per week, not hour after expenses. Board Meetings should be held in the evenings, after which updating and training if required could then be given.
Should not be allowed to claim for loss of earnings at all.
The rate to be claimed on the average hourly earnings of the Derby Area, which would probably be about £8 per hour.
£45 per hour is ridiculous – It would be fair to match their actual earnings, but not the proposed inflated price. They have expenses paid so they aren't all out of pocket as such. I expect you to justify one paying of £45 per hour if you go down that road. Jury service people have confirmation from the employer as to the value of lost earnings. Couldn't you do something like that?
At £45 per hour certainly not.
No Comment, Everything is up to standard.
I agree they should be able to claim, so long as the scheme is not abused, and closely monitored.
Considering what pensioners live on the figures are very high. They should be able to claim but a more honest figure.

What is £45 based upon? Shouldn't it be hourly rate of scale plus on-cost. Does this include subsistence allowance? Derby Homes should ensure that meetings are all double handed whatever necessary and that attendance is value added as I sure employers would prefer them at their place of work even if it does present good crs practice.
The amount per hour seems rather high at £45 per hour. If any of your board members are on this rate at their own work, surely they wouldn't need to claim such a high pay back. I do realise that not everyone can have time off work to attend, but £25/25 is more realistic for the allowance on £20,000per annum this could be a full time position and well paid into the bargain
If someone is made to join the board then yes, £45 per hour is okay but if they join of their own free will, then £15 to £20 per hour is reasonable
I agree that loss of earnings should be reinburesed by that £45 an hour is excessive
If they have to attend meetings in work time they should be paid
I see no reason why someone who is giving up their time either from work or in their spare time should receive paying for it.
You don't say where the money is coming from to pay this very high wage? I would be interested to know, but yes if someone is out of pocket by serving on the board, they should be reimbursed
Board Members / Trustees/ Committees are voluntary. If they are paid their expensives or not, it should be at the higher tax rate. If they complain of the evening work/disturbing their day job- Then don't do it. Why should tenant leaseholders pay someone else's wages for a day when the money could be spent on other things from £45:00 to £20:000-outrageous amounts of money. They want a day off from their employers, then do what any normal worker would –book a bloody days holiday. Can't wait till the telegraph sees this one
As the owner of my flat and widowed for 12 years and with very heavy costs from Derby Homes, £45 per hour is too high for sitting on the board.
A very good idea, people with small incomes will benefit best
Minimum Wage less than £6 per/hr. My pension less than £80 per/wk."more feet in the trough"
As per my note overleaf surely the person's job, hourly rate is more appropriate. We must always be aware it is not our money we would be spending, and £20,000 a year is tantamount a second job/Also would need to check if at any time a person went onto benefits-if they lost their job etc. Why not personal job rate?
They give up their time {free} to help others so they must incur expenses.
I think that board members should not receive any more money than their wages, other than travel expenses Otherwise if board members bare claiming more money on top of their salaries they are becoming member for financial reasons which is unacceptable.
£45.00 an hour is absolutely ridiculous, when people are getting up in the morning to go out to work for about £5.00 an hour.
Although £45.00 per hour seems high. Is this a national average?
The one who works for no pay, is never out of work.
If people below 65 or 60 are prepared to attend meetings are in employment and will lose money, it is only fair that they are reimbursed.
I think should be allowed to claim for loss of earnings.
I agree that Board Members should be compensated for loss of earnings only - £20 Per Hour is more reasonable as £45 is too much.
I think they do all they can and should be reimbursed for loss of income.
If payment is to be made it should be on the basis of how much they have lost, not £45 an hour if they earn £6.50 or £10 an hour. They did volunteer for this work.
Members with families cant afford to loose money these days and should be paid for doing things for the community.
I think being reimbursed for loss of earnings could be encourage more people to show an interest in finding more information on becoming a board member. Good Luck.
I think the hourly and total possible to be claimed is too high part-time involvement
Travel expense only
£45 per hour?? A ridiculous amount of money. The unemployed are only given this amount to live on for a week.
We think it is a good idea to pay Board Members for meetings etc, but only be paid at the rate

they would be losing from being away from work plus out of pocket expenses and no more.
Board members who take an interest in the well being of tenants should be rewarded.
Providing it does not rise to excecivley and taken for granted.
If board members should be paid for loss of earnings, so should everyone in Derby for whatever reason.
I am not quite sure what is the need for Board Members on panels as there is a limit to ideas put forward for improvement complete waste of money my pension went up £2.66 and the rent you charged me was £3.14 a week. I do not know with my medium powers I get in touch with god or the devil but whoever he is he has got rid of awful lot of greedy people in my life time.
£45.00 is outrageous (based on working week of 37 hours = £86,580.00 per year) Pay the national minimum hourly rate with minimum total of £20.00 for any day they attend provided they have actually lost any earnings.
£45.00 that's outrageous.
I'd like 10 hours a week at that rate. I have to do 39 at £7.00.
I agree they should keep getting expenses paid even the ones who are not at work as well.
I believe Derby Homes are doing a fine job and board members should be reimbursed for the good work they are doing.
£45.00 per hour is nine times above minimum wage. Board members should claim for actual monies lost @ 23p.p.m. for travelling. Will this monies claims be notified to h.m. Ins. Of Taxes in all cases?
If the person is working he has a home wife and children and bills to pay. They should be allowed to claim loss of wages as long as it is proven they earn £45.00 per hour or less.
I think that board members should claim loss of earnings as they do a great job organising the jobs and people.
Board members choose to put themselves up for the post and obviously those who are working know they will have to have time off work for boards meetings etc.. Therefore the decision is informed – so if they lose pay -= so be it.
Voluntary (Not for income in any way!)
Board members should only be allowed to claim actual loss of earnings. Plus out of pocket expenses. £45.00 per hour up to £20,000 quoted is way out of proportion.
When people were elected as B. Members they did it with no thought of payment. I can understand that those who do work might lose out but most of the meetings are at night anyway. Travel allowance is paid, this was agreed so they are not out of pocket anyway. I cannot see a solution to this problem unless this is resolved, permanently it will always rear its ugly head. It is not fair on those who are retired and only get a pension.
Whoever proposed this reimbursement seems to forget a lot of your tenants are OAP's on a low fix income. Derby homes was set up to look after the tenants, many did not earn enough to buy their homes, so still pay rent, which you increase another burden for OAP's
£45.00 per hour is too much, £10.00 is more reasonable
I think on studying your explanations that they need to be paid. After all they do is important, and not merely voluntary work (unpaid). They should have a choice to claim recompense
£45.00 an hour out of Council Funds could be better used in the community. I agree that peoples should be reimbursed for out of pocket expenses. But if you are working for the betterment of the community then you should get the same as the rest of us
Who on earth is going to be losing £45.00 per hour, this amount is ludicrous and totally out of touch with reality.
Although I agree in principal. £45.00 per hour seems a little high. Most people in Derby earn far less than that
This is a service to the community by volunteers
I think £45.00 per hour is excessive
Yes I think they should be paid. It is only the right thing to do and the decent thing. If anyone loses out they should be paid
A trial scheme of 3 months should be done first, to see the amount paid out
I think anyone working in the interest and welfare of the council tenants should be reimbursed for their time if the outcome is beneficial to all
I think this idea is going to be abused by the people involved by making a full time job out of it. At

£45.00 per hour plus expenses
But – I do not think £45 per hour is acceptable. The average hourly rate for most of the population is £8 an hour on average so if £10 was given it would be much nearer the amount of the general working rate
I think board members should be allowed to claim a reasonable loss of money if they have to be off work etc. but not too excessive as its only fair as they valuable people Board Members for Derby Homes, which to me is a great organisation as Derby homes staff are so helpful to us older people
For £45 per hour – I'll join the board. I agree they should get something for loss of earnings but not that much – make it reasonable. I work very hard for my £7 per hour
I think the scheme is right, but the ceiling is too high for this is more than a lot of people have to live on even if they have a small time employment
<p>I think the proposed scheme is completely unreasonable.</p> <p>It has been my experience, voluntarily having given up countless hours attending evening and weekend meetings on behalf of colleagues during my working life, that the quality of representation is diminished when anything in addition to out of pocket expenses becomes available.</p> <p>I can only consider the Government's granting of this option as yet a further indication that eventually Derby Homes Limited along with the dwellings presently owned by Derby City Council will eventually be sold to the highest bidder.</p> <p>In the interim, while tenants are led to believe that their opinion has some influence on decision-making, I suggest that if Joint-tenants are legally held to be "jointly and severally" responsible for payment of rent then both should be consulted.</p> <p>I deplore the present practice of sending just one questionnaire to each dwelling regardless of the number of tenants</p>
I have been a voluntary worker for 18 years, and will continue to be one for as long as I am able. I do this as I feel the need to put something back into society. Presumably these people became board members for the same altruistic reasons and therefore payment should be unnecessary. I would be interested in knowing where you propose to find the funds to pay the "small number" expected to claim it
What safeguards will be put in to safeguard excessive claims being made (i.e. Brum workers claiming £91.00 for cleaning lamps while off sick). Judging from the amount of paper work being issued, it seems to me that a check could be made here
I think that claiming £45.00 per hour is very un-reasonable when I understand that the current minimum wage is about £5.00 per hour
I do not agree to £45 per hour. However if they are in employment and are not paid for the time out then they should be compensated for loss of earnings.
I feel that Board Members who attend meetings out of work should be reimbursed on full pay or alternatively given TOIL. They should also be reimbursed for all out of pocket expenses.