

# COMMUNITIES 1st

## Volunteer Expenses Policy

### Purpose

This policy is intended to provide a clear set of rules for all volunteers within Communities 1st to ensure that volunteers do not inadvertently incur expenses which we can neither justify nor reimburse. We need at all times to ensure that our expenditure is relevant to our charitable objectives and can be fully justified therefore all expenses should be reasonable and kept to a minimum.

### Who the policy applies to

All Communities 1st volunteers

### Why we have this policy

The work of Communities 1st is critically dependent on our network of volunteers. We are very grateful to our volunteers for not only providing their time free, but also choosing to meet incidental expenses from within their own resources i.e. at no charge to Communities 1st. Otherwise, with this number of volunteers involved, we could not afford to deliver our programmes at the current levels of scale and quality. Our general approach on expenses therefore is that reimbursement will be at the local staff management's discretion, based on their assessment of Communities 1st's requirements, the available budget and the volunteer's own needs.

### Details

- All volunteers must claim expenses by completing the Volunteer Expenses Claim Form available from the relevant manager who will authorise completed claims.
- Only expenses submitted on the relevant form and correctly authorised will be reimbursed. Details should be given of the meeting or function attended and claims should be accompanied by invoices or VAT receipts if available.
- All claims should be signed by the Volunteer and the authorising manager. If this is not possible i.e. the volunteer submits their claim via email, the email should be attached to confirm the claim and then the authorising manager can sign and submit the form to finance.
- All claims should be made within 3 months of expenses being incurred.
- Only actual costs incurred can be reimbursed, expenses do not represent a reward or compensation for loss of time
- Activities likely to incur expenses for volunteers should be authorised by managers in advance. Communities 1st can accept no liability for expenses that result from activities not agreed beforehand with managers.

- In some cases volunteers' regular employers may be happy to absorb costs such as postage, telephone calls or photocopying - volunteers should clear this first with their employers.
- Travel on public transport should always be booked as far in advance as possible in order to take advantage of the maximum range of discounts. Communities 1st will pay for standard class travel only. Travel should be 'off peak', wherever possible, and should take advantage of the various discounts available.
- Where the use of prepay 'oyster' cards or similar electronic tickets for public transport are cheaper per journey than paying cash then they may be used even though a receipt cannot be provided. Please register your oyster card online prior to incurring the expense so that you can send the journey history as the backup with the expense claim. The expenses claim must be itemised for each journey and the relevant cost. Do not claim for the 'top-up' cost of the card. Where the above is not possible then please note approvers will use the below fare guide as a reference to reimburse and check expenses.
- Where contactless payment is used to pay for travel then please use the following guidance to validate the expense claim.

Please use the guide below for checking TFL fares:-

<https://tfl.gov.uk/cdn/static/cms/documents/tube-dlr-lo-adult-fares.pdf>

<https://tfl.gov.uk/cdn/static/cms/documents/tube-dlr-lo-18-plus-student-fares.pdf>

<https://tfl.gov.uk/cdn/static/cms/documents/tube-dlr-lo-16-18-fares.pdf>

The standard car mileage rate for volunteers working for Communities 1st is **45p** per mile. Any deviations to these rates must be authorised by a member of staff.

All volunteers that hold Business Class motor insurance will be automatically covered for their work on behalf of Communities 1st, but if their insurance is limited to social and domestic use then they will have to discuss their role as a volunteer with their insurance company to ensure that they are fully covered. Volunteers will be asked to show valid Business Class motor insurance cover or sign the relevant section on the Expenses form to confirm that they have agreed their driving on Communities 1st business with their insurers before we can reimburse mileage costs.

### **Reimbursement of Expenses**

- All volunteer's expenses will be reimbursed by cheque. If a volunteer is going to be claiming expenses on a regular basis then reimbursement can be made by direct bank transfer. Please add your bank details to the Volunteer form.

Comments related to the maintenance of this policy should be directed to the Chief Executive