

**AGENDA ITEM:**

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY ANNUAL MEETING</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>9<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2010</b>
<b>REPORT NO.</b>	<b>CFO/105/10</b>
<b>REPORTING OFFICER:</b>	<b>CLERK TO THE AUTHORITY</b>
<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	<b>HELEN PEEK, MEMBER LIAISON AND SUPPORT MANAGER, EXTN 4112</b>
<b>OFFICERS CONSULTED:</b>	
<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	<b>SCHEME OF MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES 2010/11</b>

<b>APPENDIX A</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>MERSEYSIDE FIRE &amp; RESCUE AUTHORITY SCHEME OF MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES – AGREED JUNE 2009</b>
<b>APPENDIX B</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>MEMBERS ALLOWANCE PAY RATE IN LINE WITH FIREFIGHTERS PAY AWARD JULY 2009 INCLUDING INCREMENT FROM APRIL 2010</b>

Purpose of Report

1. To request the Authority to consider the current Members' Allowances Scheme.

Recommendation

2. That the Authority:
  - (a) continues with its current Members' Allowances Scheme or;
  - (b) identifies any variations to the Scheme it may wish to be implemented, in line with the structure of the Authority which is being considered as a separate report on this agenda. (for example in respect of arrangements for special responsibility payments in relation to various roles Members are appointed to).

Introduction & Background

3. The Authority's current Scheme for Members' Allowances is attached as Appendix A. The Scheme was adopted by the Authority on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2004 was approved to take effect on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2005 and subsequently confirmed at the Annual Meeting in 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008.

4. In 2009 the Authority agreed an amendment to the Scheme of Allowances to include a Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA), for Members appointed as Deputy Group Leaders, should their group wish to appoint a Member to the position Deputy Leader and, with the provision that such allowance would not be payable where an SRA is also payable for performing the role of Vice Chairman of the Authority.
5. The rate of the Deputy Group Leader SRA is 50% of the Basic Allowance, and currently matches that allowance for the Chair of a Committee.
6. The Authority also agreed that Members entitled to Special Responsibility Allowances for the role of a 'Chair' or additional responsibilities such as a Champion would only be entitled to each type of SRA once, therefore if a Member holds the position of Chair of more than one Committee, they will only receive the SRA for one role as opposed to two. This rule also applies to those appointed with additional responsibilities such as a Champion.
7. Currently under the scheme, Members in receipt of an SRA for the position of Committee Chair are also entitled to an SRA if undertaking additional responsibilities such as a Champion.
8. The scheme provides for payment of a basic allowance to all Councillors calculated at £7,970 from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009 which is £8,070 from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010 (in line with Firefighters Pay Award of previous July) and Special Responsibility Allowances in respect of specified roles, which are linked to proportions of the basic allowance, as set out in the scheme.
9. Special Responsibility Allowances payable under the scheme are based on the current Authority structure as agreed at the Annual Meeting in June 2009. If the Authority decides to change the structure it may also wish to amend the Members Allowances Scheme accordingly.
10. Should the Authority wish to consider amending the Members' Allowances Scheme it may also wish to refer the proposals to the Standards Committee for it to consider making recommendations to the Authority.

#### Equality and Diversity Implications

11. All Members are entitled to the same basic allowance, and Special Responsibility Allowances are paid to Members for performing approved special responsibilities by reference to proportions of basic allowances.

#### Financial Implications & Value for Money

12. Budgetary provision has been made for Members' allowances. The overall cost which is approximately £250K.

The increase in total because of the application of the firefighters' pay award is 1.25% or £3K.

## Health & Safety and Environmental Implications

13. None arising out of this report.

### Contribution to Achieving the Vision:

“To Make Merseyside a Safer, Stronger, Healthier Community”

14. Payment of allowances at reasonable rates will ensure that Members are able to perform their functions in leading and setting the vision, policy and objectives for the Authority to achieve.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Scheme of Members' Allowances

### **\*Glossary of Terms**

CLG = Communities & Local Government