

AGENDA ITEM:

REPORT TO:	MERSEYSIDE FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY ANNUAL MEETING
DATE:	12TH JUNE 2012
REPORT NO.	CFO/074/12
REPORTING OFFICER:	JANET HENSHAW – CLERK TO THE AUTHORITY
CONTACT OFFICER:	HELEN PEEK – DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER, EXT. 4112
OFFICERS CONSULTED:	
SUBJECT:	MEMBERS' ALLOWANCE PAYMENTS 2011/12

**APPENDIX A TITLE MEMBERS ALLOWANCE PAYMENTS
INCLUDING REIMBURSEMENTS**

ATTACHED – HARD COPY

Purpose of Report

1. To advise the Authority of payments made to Members in respect of allowances during the financial year 2011/12.

Recommendation

2. That the information contained in the report and at Appendix A be noted.

Introduction & Background

3. Regulation 15 of the Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 requires that the total sums paid to each Member for Basic, Special Responsibility, Travel, Subsistence and Co-optees Allowance be published. Therefore the attached appendix details the amount of such allowances paid to Members during the 2011/12 financial year.
4. For clarity Appendix A sets out all Allowance Payments made during 2011/12 including any claims for reimbursement made via submission of forms under the Members Scheme of Allowances.
5. This details total Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances (SRA) - which are payments to Members reflecting their role as a Merseyside Fire & Rescue Authority Member e.g. Committees they Chair, Sponsor roles they have held and Boards they are appointed to.
6. Also included are reimbursements for mileage, overnight accommodation, and travel and subsistence allowances, which have been claimed back by each

Member. It is important to note that these are reimbursements rather than payments made.

Equality & Diversity Implications

7. None arising out of the report.

Staff Implications

8. Members Allowance Claims are checked against attendance at events, and approved by the Democratic Services Manager for payment.

Legal Implications

9. Members have an approved Members Allowance scheme and are therefore entitled to make claim, and for payment of allowances as set out within that scheme.

Financial Implications & Value for Money

10. The rates of allowances are determined by the Authority from time to time, taking into account the recommendations of the Standards Committee. The total cost of Members allowance payments was £260,951k. This is approximately 0.4% of the Authority budget.

Risk Management, Health & Safety, and Environmental Implications

11. Members of the Authority are asked to use the most efficient method of transport when travelling on Authority business.

Contribution to Our Mission – To Achieve: Safer Stronger Communities – Safe Effective Firefighters”

12. Members of the Authority and Co-optees are provided with basic allowances to cover costs of time, travel, subsistence and responsibility - enabling Members the opportunity and ability to attend events and represent the Fire Authority in making decisions for the benefit of the community.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Members Allowance Scheme – CFO/064/11