

MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

MEETING OF THE:	AUTHORITY (ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING)		
DATE:	9 TH JUNE 2022	REPORT NO:	CFO/028/022
PRESENTING OFFICER	MONITORING OFFICER		
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	RIA GROVES	REPORT AUTHOR:	SHAUNA HEALEY
OFFICERS CONSULTED:	STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP TEAM CHAIR OF THE AUTHORITY		
TITLE OF REPORT:	SCHEME OF MEMBERS ALLOWANCE 22/23		

APPENDICES:	APPENDIX A:	DRAFT MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY SCHEME OF MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES
	APPENDIX B:	MEMBERS ALLOWANCE PAY RATES 2022/23

Purpose of Report

1. To request that the Authority reviews the current Scheme of Members' Allowances and makes recommendations on any changes it wishes to make.

Recommendation

2. It is recommended that Members;
 - a) approve continuation with its current Members' Allowance Scheme, or:
 - b) identify any variations to the Scheme they may wish to implement, in line with the structure of the Authority (which is being considered as a separate report on this agenda) and the approved budget;
 - c) note that any inflationary increase to the Authority's Scheme of Members' Allowances is normally aligned to the previous year's Firefighters' pay;
 - d) approve a pay increase to the Scheme of Members allowances in line with the Firefighters Pay Award for 2022/23 which would apply to 2023/24 allowances; and
 - e) approve the roles of Co-opted Member and Independent Member to be combined and:
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- i. to be appointed to both the Audit Committee and Scrutiny Committee, as a non-voting member (subject to approval of Structure).
- ii. to continue to consider any complaints against Members, alleged to have breached the Members' Code of Conduct and Relevant Officers under the Relevant Officers Disciplinary Procedure on the Independent Panel as the "Independent Person"
- iii. to be paid for conducting such roles following submission and verification of invoices, at a daily attendance rate of £50 (as and when required) as is the current case.

Introduction and Background

3. The Authority's draft Scheme of Members' Allowances for 2022/23 is attached at Appendix A.
4. In 2009 the Authority agreed an amendment to the Scheme of Allowances to include the addition of a Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA) of 50% of the basic allowance, for Members appointed as Deputy Group Leaders, should their group wish to appoint a Member to that position, on the proviso that such allowance would not be payable where an SRA is also payable for performing the role of Vice Chair of the Authority.
5. The Authority also agreed that Members entitled to SRA's for the role of "Chair" or additional responsibilities such as Lead Member, would only be entitled to receive one SRA payment.
6. In addition, it was also agreed at the AGM 11th June 2015 that the SRA payment for Opposition Spokesperson, only be paid to one Opposition Member.
7. A slight amendment was made to the Scheme of Allowances for 2018/19, in relation to Schedule 1 – "2 levels of "Chair Allowance" were created. For Committees comprising of 7 or more Members, the Chair's Allowance will be paid at a higher rate and for Committees of 6 Members or less, the Chair's Allowance will be paid at the lower rate (the same rate as the previous "Sub-Committee Chair" Allowance) as detailed in appendix A.
8. Since October 2013, Mr Anthony Boyle has been undertaking the roles of Independent Person and Co-opted Member under the title of "Independent Person" as per the Localism Act 2011 which requires that an independent Person be appointed to consider any complaints made against Elected Members. More detail on this proposal is contained in a separate report.
9. The full breakdown of the proposed scheme of allowances is contained in the appendices of this report.

Equality and Diversity Implications

10. All Members are entitled to the same basic allowance and SRA's are paid to Members for performing approved special responsibilities by reference to proportions of basic allowance.

Staff Implications

11. This report relates to Members allowances and as such there are no staff implications to consider.

Legal Implications

12. The Local Government Act 1972 and the Members Allowances (England) Regulations 2003, provide that a Scheme of Allowances is required and reviewed every year.

Financial Implications & Value for Money

13. The costs for the scheme of members allowances can be met within existing budgets.

Risk Management, Health & Safety, and Environmental Implications

14. There are no risk management, health and Safety or environmental implications arising directly from this report.

Contribution to Our Vision: *To be the best Fire & Rescue Service in the UK.*

Our Purpose: *Here to serve, Here to protect, Here to keep you safe.*

15. Payment of allowances at reasonable rates will ensure that Members are able to effectively perform their functions, in leading and settling the mission, policies and objectives for the Authority to achieve.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

NONE

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

MFRA	Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority
MFRS	Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service
SRA	Special Responsibility Allowance