

MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY			
MEETING OF THE:	AUTHORITY (ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING)		
DATE:	12 JUNE 2025	REPORT NO:	MO/09/2526
PRESENTING OFFICER	MONITORING OFFICER, RIA GROVES		
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	MONITORING OFFICER, RIA GROVES	REPORT AUTHOR:	MONITORING OFFICER, RIA GROVES
OFFICERS CONSULTED:	STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP TEAM		
TITLE OF REPORT:	SCHEME OF MEMBERS ALLOWANCES 2025/26		
APPENDICES:	APPENDIX A: SCHEME OF ALLOWANCES		

Purpose of Report

1. To request that Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority ('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 the Members' Allowances Scheme 2025/26, 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 and subsistence allowances by the previous year's March CPI;
 - d) approve a pay increase to the Scheme of Members allowances in line with the Firefighters Pay Award for 2024/25 which would apply to the 2025/26 allowances;
 - e) approve the role of Co-opted Member (subject to approval of the structure) to be paid for conducting such role following submission and verification of invoices at a daily attendance rate of £60 (as and when required) as is the current case; and
 - f) approve the payment of a daily rate of £60 (as and when required) for the appointed Independent Person.

Introduction and Background

3. The Authority's draft Scheme of Members' Allowances for 2025/26 is attached at Appendix A.
4. The Authority have previously agreed that Members entitled to a Special Responsibility Allowance ('SRA'), would only be entitled to receive one SRA payment, even if Members had more than one additional responsibility which would attract an SRA.
5. It is recommended that the SRA payment for Opposition Spokesperson continues to only be paid to one Opposition Member at any given time.
6. Mr Anthony Boyle has been undertaking the role of Co-opted Member on the Audit and Scrutiny Committees as a non-voting Member. Recruitment in the previous municipal year was completed for a new Independent Person to consider any complaints in respect of elected Members and Statutory Officers providing further resilience and greater independence for the Authority.
7. The full breakdown of the proposed Scheme of Allowances is contained in Appendix A of this report.

Equality and Diversity Implications

8. All Members are entitled to the same basic allowance and SRAs are paid to Members for performing approved special responsibilities by reference to proportions of basic allowance.

Staff Implications

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

Legal Implications

10. 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

11. The costs for the scheme of Members Allowances can be met within existing budgets.

Risk Management and Health & Safety Implications

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

Environmental Implications

13. There are no 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.*

14. The requirement of a scheme of allowance and publishing the same create a greater level of scrutiny and transparency to the community in which the Authority serves and represents.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

NONE