

MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY			
MEETING OF THE:	AUTHORITY (ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING)		
DATE:	13 JUNE 2024	REPORT NO:	CFO/40/24
PRESENTING OFFICER	MONITORING OFFICER, RIA GROVES		
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	MONITORING OFFICER, RIA GROVES	REPORT AUTHOR:	RIA GROVES/ SHAUNA HEALEY
OFFICERS CONSULTED:	FINANCE		
TITLE OF REPORT:	MEMBERS ALLOWANCE PAYMENTS 2023/24		

APPENDICES:	APPENDIX A: MEMBERS ALLOWANCE PAYMENTS 2023/24
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Purpose of Report

1. To advise the Authority of the payments made to Members in the form of allowances during the financial year 2023/24.

Recommendation

2. It is recommended that Members note the information contained within the report and at Appendix A.

Introduction and 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 any Co-optees allowance be published. Appendix A (attached) shows the total amount of allowances paid to each Member during the financial year 2023/24, including on costs. It also provides a breakdown of those total allowance payments into allowance type.
4. For clarity, the Authority appointed an Independent Person, who is also a Co-opted Member in relation to independent scrutiny. Invoices are submitted in relation to the attendance of the Independent Person/Co-opted Member which are then checked by the Democratic Services Department prior to approval being given for payment. Appendix A also includes payments for duties conducted by the Independent Person/Co-opted Member in performing these roles, which were paid at a daily rate of £60 during 2023/24.
5. In addition to the total amount of allowances paid to each individual Member (including all on costs - tax and national insurance deductions etc.), Appendix A also details the amount of Basic and Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA)

payments, made to Members appointed to special roles within the Authority. The payments reported are for the Financial Year 2023/24, which spans two Municipal Years – 2022/23 and 2023/24; and some Members may have left or joined the Authority, or changed roles, at various stages throughout the period reported.

1. Members appointed to specialist roles only receive an SRA payment for one role (usually the role with the largest responsibility), regardless of the number of specialist roles they are appointed to, in line with the Members Scheme of Allowances.
2. Also included within Appendix A are reimbursements for mileage, overnight accommodation, travel and subsistence allowances, which have been claimed by individual Members through the Authority's Scheme of Allowances. It is important to note that these are reimbursements for time and expenses incurred by Members; and are not payments in relation to travel and event bookings made directly by the Authority.
3. A separate column has been included within Appendix A to show any additional costs per Member, which have been incurred directly by the Authority. This includes travel and accommodation booked and paid directly by the Authority.
4. It is important to note that the additional payments made through the Scheme of Members Allowances; and costs incurred directly by the Authority, are normally higher for those Members in receipt of Special Responsibility Allowances, particularly the Chair of the Authority, compared to those of other Members, due to the amount of events they attend on behalf of the Authority; and associated travelling costs.

Equality and Diversity Implications

5. There are no direct equality or diversity implications arising out of this report.

Staff Implications

6. Members allowance claims are checked against attendance at events and are approved by the Democratic Services department for payment

Legal Implications

7. Members have an approved Members Allowance Scheme and are therefore entitled to payment of allowances and reimbursement of expenses as set out within that scheme.
8. The publishing of payments to Members ensures the Authority remains compliant with its legal duties.

Financial Implications & Value for Money

9. The rates of allowances are determined by the Authority and are reviewed periodically.
10. The total cost of Members payments were contained within the budget.

Risk Management and Health & Safety Implications

11. There are no direct risk management and health and safety implications arising from this report.

Environmental Implications

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

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.*

13. Members of the Authority are provided with allowances to ensure Members with the opportunity and ability to attend events to represent the Authority, which contributes to effective decision making for the benefit of the community.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

NONE

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

MFRA **M**erseyside **F**ire and **R**escue **A**uthority

MFRS **M**erseyside **F**ire and **R**escue **S**ervice

SRA **S**pecial **R**esponsibility **A**llowance