

AGENDA ITEM:

REPORT TO:	MERSEYSIDE FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY ANNUAL MEETING
DATE:	11TH JUNE 2013
REPORT NO.	CFO/061/13
REPORTING OFFICER:	JANET HENSHAW – CLERK TO THE AUTHORITY
CONTACT OFFICER:	KELLY JOHNSON – DEPUTY DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER, EXT. 4113
OFFICERS CONSULTED:	
SUBJECT:	MEMBERS' ALLOWANCE PAYMENTS 2012/13

THERE ARE APPENDICES ATTACHED TO THIS REPORT:

APPENDIX A	TITLE	MEMBERS ALLOWANCE PAYMENTS INCLUDING REIMBURSEMENTS
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ATTACHED – HARD COPY

Purpose of Report

1. To advise the Authority of payments made to Members in respect of allowances during the financial year 2012/13.

Recommendation

2. That Members note the information contained within the report and appendix.

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. Appendix A (attached) details the amount of such allowances paid to Members during the 2012/13 financial year.
4. For clarity, Appendix A sets out all Allowance Payments made during 2012/13 including any claims for reimbursement made via submission of forms under the Members Scheme of Allowances.
5. Appendix A also details total Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances (SRA) - which are payments made to Members for roles they hold as a Merseyside Fire & Rescue Authority Member, for example Committees they Chair, Scrutiny Member 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 through the Scheme of Allowances. It is important to note that these are reimbursements rather than payments made.

Equality & Diversity Implications

9. None arising out of the report.

Staff Implications

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

Legal Implications

11. 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.

Financial Implications & Value for Money

12. The rates of allowances are determined by the Authority and are reviewed periodically.
13. The cost of Members payments for 2012/13, under the Scheme of Members Allowances, was £245,581.31. This equates to approximately 0.37% of the Authority's overall budget for 2012/13.

Risk Management, Health & Safety, and Environmental Implications

16. Members of the Authority are required 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”

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

BACKGROUND PAPERS