

MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY			
MEETING OF THE:	MERSEYSIDE FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING		
DATE:	26TH JUNE 2014	REPORT NO:	CFO/067/14
PRESENTING OFFICER	CLERK TO THE AUTHORITY		
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	JANET HENSHAW	REPORT AUTHOR:	HELEN PEEK DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER, EXT 4112
OFFICERS CONSULTED:	HELEN JONES, PAYROLL MANAGER		
TITLE OF REPORT:	MEMBERS ALLOWANCE PAYMENTS 2013/14		

APPENDICES:	APPENDIX 1: MEMBERS ALLOWANCE PAYMENTS INCLUDING REIMBURSEMENTS FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2013/14
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Purpose of Report

1. To advise the Authority of payments made to Members in respect of allowances during the financial year 2013/14.

Recommendation

2. That Members note the information contained within the report and Appendix 1.

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 Co-optees Allowance be published. Appendix 1 (attached) details the amount of such allowances paid to Members during the 2013/14 financial year.
4. For clarity Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority appointed an Independent Person who, with effect from 1st October 2013, carries out the duties of a Co-opted Member in relation to Independent Scrutiny, appointed to the Performance and Scrutiny Committee, as well as the role of an Independent Person to consider any complaints against a Member of the Authority (should any be made) in relation to a breach of the Members Code of Conduct. Invoices are submitted by the Independent Person for any works conducted in relation to these roles, checked by the Democratic Services Manager before approval being given for payment. Appendix 1 also includes payments for duties conducted by the Independent person in respect of these roles, which are paid at a daily attendance rate of £50.00 during 2013/14.

5. Appendix 1 also details total Basic and Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA) payments, made to Members appointed to special roles within Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority, e.g. Chair of a Committee or Lead Member role.
6. 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 appointed to, in line with the Members Scheme of Allowances.
7. Included in Appendix 1 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 direct by MFRA.

Equality and Diversity Implications

8. None arising out of the report.

Staff Implications

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

Legal Implications

10. 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

11. The rates of allowances are determined by the Authority and are reviewed periodically.
12. The cost of Members payments for 2013/14, under the Scheme of Members Allowances, was £233,580.25, (compared to £245,581.31 2012/13).

Risk Management, Health & Safety, and Environmental Implications

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

Contribution to Our Mission: *Safer Stronger Communities – Safe Effective Firefighters*

14. 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 Authority, in making decisions for the benefit of the community.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

GLOSSARY OF TERMS
