

WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

6 SEPTEMBER 2010

**1. APPROVED DUTY – BRIEFING FOR MEMBERS OF THE
AUTHORITY ATTENDING ORGANISED STATION EVENTS**

Report of the Chief Fire Officer.

RECOMMENDED

- 1.1 THAT the attendance of the Fire Authority Councillors representing Birmingham City Council at a briefing in September 2010 with regards to Birmingham North and South Operational Commands be regarded as an Approved Duty for the purpose of claiming travel and subsistence allowance.
- 1.2 THAT attendance by Members at up to six organised fire station events in each of their Council areas per year be approved for the purpose of the payment of travel and subsistence allowances, subject to the necessary budgetary provisions being available.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 2.1 This report is submitted to seek approval for the attendance of the Fire Authority Councillors from Birmingham City Council at a meeting in September associated with public engagement to be regarded as an approved duty for the purpose of claiming travel and subsistence allowance.
- 2.2 The report also seeks approval for Members from all Councils attending similar events organised by Stations and/or Operational Commanders in their own locality this year to be considered an approved duty in relation to travel and subsistence allowances. The events could be Station Open Days, local briefings, youth presentations, ceremonies, education and community events. It is hoped to increase Member involvement with their local Community Fire Stations and this report is being submitted to eliminate the requirement for individual reports to have to be submitted on each occasion.

3. **BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The Fire Authority Members representing Birmingham City Council have been invited to attend a meeting and briefing regarding the work of the Birmingham Operational Commands, so they can gain a more in-depth appreciation of the work being carried out in the Birmingham area in relation to ongoing engagement and actions.
- 3.2 It is anticipated that the event will take place between 21, 22 or 23 September 2010 and Birmingham City Council Members are requested to provisionally note the dates in their diaries. This half day event will be held at Ladywood Fire Station.
- 3.3 It is the intention to hold these types of events in all of the Operational Commands so Members representing other Councils in the West Midlands will be invited to those held in their particular area in due course.
- 3.4 It is hoped that involvement of Members in the activities at their local fire stations will increase in the future and to support this, it is requested that, in addition to the two station monitoring visits per year already approved by the Authority at its meeting on 28 June 2010, up to six other visits per year are considered for approval to enable more participation by Members in Station activities. These activities might include Open Days, local briefings, youth presentations, ceremonies, education and community events. By approving up to six attendances per year will mean that individual reports will not be required to be submitted for each event.

4. **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

In preparing this report an initial Equality Impact Assessment is not required and has not been carried out. The matters contained in this report will not lead to a policy change.

5. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

The Members' Allowance Scheme of the West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority has been drawn up in accordance with the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003.

6. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The cost of any travel and subsistence claims received subsequent to the event will be met from the existing budget for Members' allowances.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Report to the Fire Authority 28 June 2010 – Agenda Item 13

VIJ RANDENIYA
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER