

WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

30th NOVEMBER 2009

1. **MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES –
CONSIDERATION OF ANNUAL INCREASE 2009/2010**

Report of the Clerk.

RECOMMENDED

THAT guidance is given on the annual increase to members' allowances in 2009/2010.

2. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

The Authority is requested to consider whether it wishes to implement the annual increase to members' allowances, which is provided for within section 10 of the Members' Allowances Scheme.

3. **BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Part 3, Section 10(4) of the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 enables an authority to make provision for an annual adjustment of allowances by reference to such an index specified by the authority. In line with this, on 11th September 2006 the Executive Committee decided that the rates of allowances will be increased annually in line with the agreed pay awards to NJC Local Government Services and this is reflected in section 10 of the Members' Allowances Scheme.
- 3.2 The rates of increase agreed for NJC employees in 2009/2010 are 1.25% for spinal column points 4-10 inclusive; and 1% for spinal column points 11 and beyond.
- 3.3 The Authority may wish to note that JNC employees (i.e. chief officers) have not been awarded a pay increase in 2009/2010.
- 3.3 Section 6 of the Members' Allowances Scheme provides that an elected member or an independent member may elect to forego any part of his/her entitlement to an allowance under the scheme, by giving notice in writing to the Clerk.

Should members wish to forego the annual uplift in 2009/2010, then the Clerk will consider the minutes of this meeting to be the written notice as required in accordance with the Scheme.

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 do not relate 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 estimated impact of the pay award would be approximately £2,800 which could be met from within existing budgets.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Members' Allowances Scheme

Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003

SUE PHELPS
CLERK