

**WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

**10 OCTOBER 2022**

**1. WMFRA CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2022-2023 AND MEMBERS ALLOWANCES SCHEME 2022-2023**

Report of the Clerk and Monitoring Officer.

**RECOMMENDED**

- 1.1 THAT the Authority approve the calendar of meetings for 2022-2023 as set out in Appendix 1.
- 1.2 THAT the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2022-2023 as set out in Appendix 2, be approved.

**2. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 2.1 This report is submitted for the Authority to determine its Calendar of Meetings and Members Allowance Scheme for 2022/23.

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The Calendar of Meetings was brought to the Fire Authority Annual General Meeting on Monday 27 June as part of a wider Governance Paper which was subsequently withdrawn at the meeting.
- 3.2 The West Midlands Fire Authority Constitution allows provision for the Chair of the Committees to approve its committee dates outside of Fire Authority. All Chairs were contacted and approved the dates outlined within appendix 1. The same provisions within the Constitution do not allow for full Fire Authority dates to be agreed outside of a Fire Authority meeting. Instead, the Chair is able to call an extraordinary meeting, which is what has occurred in this instance to allow for Fire Authority business to be conducted as scheduled.

- 3.3 The dates held within the proposed calendar of meetings, as per **Appendix 1**, has not been changed since its last publication. The only step taken is to remove dates that have already passed.
- 3.4 Under the current flexible approach, Joint Consultative Panel, Policy Planning Forum and Pension Board will continue as fully digital meetings throughout. All other Committees will utilise the hybrid approach with the expectation of all members attending in person. Exceptions will continue to be made on medical grounds.

### **Members' Allowances Scheme**

- 3.5 In accordance with Regulation 10 of the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 (the Regulations), the Authority is required to make and approve a scheme of the payments of members' allowances each year.
- 3.6 The current members allowance scheme contained within the Authority Constitution does not allow for indexing beyond 1 April 2011, and it is proposed that referencing to such indexing is removed in a future revision of the Authority Constitution, given that it is now significantly out of date. Instead, decisions on member allowances will be made by the Authority directly.
- 3.7 The member allowance scheme was last reviewed by an Independent Review Panel and a report presented to the Authority in November 2018. Despite the outcomes of the review the Authority agreed to maintain its current members' allowance scheme for 2019/20 and 2021/22. This scheme continues for 2022/23.
- 3.8 The Localism Act 2011 introduced a new local standards framework and replaces independent members of the Standards Committee with an 'independent person'. Independent persons are entitled to claim travel and subsistence allowances as appropriate.
- 3.9 The Members Allowance Scheme for 2022-2023 was brought to the Fire Authority Annual General Meeting on Monday 27 June but subsequently was not approved. No changes have been made since its last publication and is attached for approval as **Appendix 2**.
- 3.10 The governance structure is unchanged.

4. **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

4.1 In preparing this report, an initial Equality Impact Assessment is not required and has not been carried out.

5. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 This report invites the Authority to determine its decision making and governance arrangements for the coming year taking into account the relevant provisions of the Local Government Act 1972, Local Government Act 1985 and the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

6. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 Provision is made in the Authority's budget to meet costs associated with the operation of the Authority's decision-making structures and the payment of Members' Allowances.

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

[WMFRA AGM Governance of the Authority Report - 27 June 2022](#)

The contact name for this report is Karen Gowreesunker, telephone number 0121 380 6678

Karen Gowreesunker  
CLERK to the Authority

Satinder Sahota  
Monitoring Officer

**Appendix 1****WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**  
**CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2022-2023**

<b>MEETING</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
<b>2022</b>			
<b>OCTOBER</b>			
Fire Authority [Political Groups – 10am]	Monday, 10 October	11:00am	Mosedale Suite, WMFS HQ
Policy Planning Forum	Monday, 24 October	11:00am	Virtual, Microsoft Teams
<b>NOVEMBER</b>			
Scrutiny Committee	Monday, 7 November	10:30am	Mosedale Suite, WMFS HQ
Policy Planning Forum	Monday, 21 November	11:00am	Virtual, Microsoft Teams
Joint Consultative Panel	Monday, 21 November	14:00pm	Virtual, Microsoft Teams
Chairs Agenda Meeting	Monday, 28 November	10:30am	Virtual, Microsoft Teams
Audit and Risk Committee	Monday, 28 November	14:00pm	Mosedale Suite, WMFS HQ
<b>DECEMBER</b>			
Pension Board	Thursday, 8 December	14:00pm	TBC
Fire Authority [Political Groups – 10am]	Monday, 12 December	11:00am	Mosedale Suite, WMFS HQ
Collaboration and Transformation	Monday, 12 December	14:00pm	Mosedale Suite, WMFS HQ
<b>2023</b>			
<b>JANUARY</b>			
Scrutiny Committee	Monday, 23 January	10:30am	Mosedale Suite, WMFS HQ
Chair Agenda Meeting	Monday, 30 January	10:30am	Virtual, Microsoft Teams
Policy Planning Forum	Monday, 30 January	12:00am	Virtual, Microsoft Teams
<b>FEBRUARY</b>			
Joint Consultative Panel	Monday, 6 February	14:00pm	Virtual, Microsoft Teams
Fire Authority [Budget/Precept] [Political Groups – 10am]	Monday, 13 February	11:00am	Mosedale Suite, WMFS HQ
Collaboration and Transformation	Monday, 27 February	10:30am	Mosedale Suite, WMFS HQ

## OFFICIAL

<b>MARCH</b>			
Policy Planning Forum	Monday, 6 March	11:00am	Virtual, Microsoft Teams
Pension Board	TBC	TBC	TBC
Audit and Risk Committee	Monday, 20 March	10:30am	Mosedale Suite, WMFS HQ
Policy Planning Forum	Monday, 27 March	11:00am	Virtual, Microsoft Teams
<b>APRIL</b>			
Policy Planning Forum	Monday, 24 April	11:00am	Virtual, Microsoft Teams
Scrutiny Committee	Monday, 24 April	14:00pm	Mosedale Suite, WMFS HQ
<b>MAY</b>			
Collaboration and Transformation	Monday, 15 May	10:30am	Mosedale Suite, WMFS HQ
Policy Planning Forum	Monday, 22 May	11:00am	Virtual, Microsoft Teams
Joint Consultative Panel	Monday, 22 May	14:00pm	Virtual, Microsoft Teams
<b>JUNE</b>			
Chairs Agenda Meeting	Monday, 12 June	10:30am	Virtual, Microsoft Teams
Policy Planning Forum	Monday, 12 June	12:00am	Virtual, Microsoft Teams
Audit and Risk Committee	Monday, 19 June	10:30am	Mosedale Suite, WMFS HQ
Fire Authority [Annual Meeting] [Political groups at 10am]	Monday, 26 June	11:00am	Mosedale Suite, WMFS HQ
<b>JULY</b>			
Audit and Risk Committee	Monday, 24 July	10:30am	Mosedale Suite, WMFS HQ

\*The Appointments, Standards and Appeals Committee will meet as and when required, with the exception of its annual meeting. \*

\*Please note: these dates may be subject to change. \*

## APPENDIX 2

Schedule 1WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITYSchedule of Special Responsibility Allowances 2022/2023

<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>SRA (£)</b>
Chair	24,500
Vice-Chair	12,250
Leader of Principal Opposition Group	7,350
Collaboration and Transformation Chair	8,575
Collaboration and Transformation Vice Chair	6,575
Scrutiny Committee Chair	8,575
Scrutiny Committee Vice-Chair	6,575
Scrutiny Committee Member	4,900
Joint Consultative Panel Chair	8,575
Joint Consultative Panel Vice-Chair	3,975
Appeals, Standards and Appointments Chair	8,575
Appeals, Standards and Appointments Vice-Chair	3,975
Audit and Risk Committee Chair	8,575
Audit and Risk Committee Vice-Chair	3,975
<b>Elected Member Basic Allowance</b>	3,500
<b>Independent's allowances</b>	
<b>Independent Member of the Audit Committee</b>	350