

WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

27th June 2011

1. **MEMBER ATTENDANCE AT CONFERENCES, SEMINARS AND VISITS**

Report of the Clerk and Monitoring Officer

RECOMMENDED

THAT the events for 2011/12 set out in the attached Appendix be approved for the purpose of the payment of travel and subsistence allowances and conference fees (where appropriate), subject to the necessary budgetary provision being available.

2. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To seek approval for attendance of Members at conferences and seminars for 2011/12.

3. **BACKGROUND**

3.1 The schedule of Approved Duties within the Members' Allowances Scheme allows for 'attendance as an appointed representative of the Authority, or of a Committee or Sub-Committee, at a conference, seminar or authorised meeting or visit at any other meeting authorised by the Authority.' A schedule of conferences, seminars and visits for the forthcoming year is submitted annually to the Authority for approval. The attached appendix provides for attendance by nominated members at two conferences and also makes provision for the approval of attendance by members at other ad hoc events, subject to the necessary budgetary provision being available.

3.2 In previous years attendance by the Chair of the Standards Committee at the Annual Conference arranged by the Standards Board for England has been included in the conference allocation. The Standards Board for England is due to be abolished under the Government's Localism Bill and is no longer organising an annual conference. It is suggested that consideration could be given during the year to attendance at a further conference should a suitable opportunity arise.

4. **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

In preparing this report an initial Equality Impact Assessment is not

required and has therefore not been carried out. The matters contained in this report do not relate to a policy change.

5. LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 In accordance with the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 the Authority is required to make and publish a scheme setting out provisions for the payment of allowances to Members of the Authority.
- 5.2 Regulation 8 of the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 states that such a scheme may provide for the payment of allowances in respect of travelling and subsistence undertaken in connection with or relating to such duties specified within the scheme (the scheme of approved duties).

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Provision is included in the Authority's budget for costs associated with attendance at conferences and seminars and for members' travel and subsistence costs.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Members' Allowances Scheme.

NEERAJ SHARMA
CLERK AND MONITORING OFFICER

Appendix

Events proposed for approval by the Authority for 2011/2012 for the purpose of the payment of travel and subsistence allowances and conference fees (where appropriate), subject to the necessary budgetary provision being available.

Event	Attendance By	Financial Implications
LGA Annual Fire Conference	Chair and Vice-Chair (or their nominees)	Conference fees and travel and subsistence
Annual Fire Conference	Chair and Vice-Chair (or their nominees)	Conference fees and travel and subsistence
Fire Service Briefing Meetings arranged by the Dept for Communities and Local Government	Chair and Vice-Chair (or their nominee) OR all members of the Authority (as appropriate)	Travel and subsistence
Annual Visit to the Houses of Parliament to meet West Midlands MPs and members	All Members	Travel and subsistence
Member training events/seminars organised by the Authority or approved by the Chair and Vice-Chair	All Members	Travel and subsistence
Monitoring visits to fire stations (up to two per quarter)	All Members	Travel and subsistence