

WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

17 SEPTEMBER 2018

1. MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

Report of the Clerk and Monitoring Officer

RECOMMENDED

THAT Members note following approval at the Authority meeting on 10th April 2017, a review of the Members' Allowances scheme has commenced and that the result of the review will be reported at the 19 November Authority meeting.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report is provided to ensure Members remain informed about all aspects relating to the review of the Members' Allowances scheme.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 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.
- 3.2 There was no pay award to NJC and Local Government Services in 2010/11, 2011/12 and Members' Allowances were not therefore increased. The scheme does not allow for indexing beyond 1 April 2011 and an Independent Remuneration Panel would usually be convened to review the Members' Allowances scheme. In the years between 2012/13 and 2017/18 in view of the continuing difficult financial situation faced by the Authority, it was agreed to defer reconsideration of the scheme and to review the situation in 12 months' time.

- 3.3 There have been minimal increases in local government pay. However, in view of the continuing financial stringency, the reformation of the Fire Authority as approved at the Authority meeting on 10 April 2017 and the revised governance structure as approved at the Authority meeting on 25 June 2018, an Independent Review has commenced to review the scheme of Members' Allowances. There has been a delay in the commencement of the review due to the sourcing of an appropriate independent body.
- 3.4 The Members' Allowances scheme was revised and approved at the Authority meeting on 25 June 2018. The scheme was revised to reflect the dissolved Executive Committee, the new Governance and Transformation Committee and the amalgamation of the Appointments, Standards and Appeals Committee.
- 3.5 The review will be conducted by Andrew Campbell, Policy Consultant, Local Government Association Consultancy.
- 3.6 The review will allow Members to provide representations of their views on the Members' Allowances. Following, representations will be analysed and external data will be researched against existing West Midlands Fire & Rescue Authority current members' allowances. A report will be produced after the analysis of representations and the comparison of existing external data.

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**

There are no legal implications associated with the implementation of the recommendations set out in this report.

6. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Provision has been made in the Authority's budget to meet costs associated with the payment of Members' Allowances. The changes that have been made to the Authority with the reduction of committees and Members has resulted in full year savings of circa £85,000.

7. **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

None

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Fire Authority Meeting 10 April 2017,

Route Map to a Mayoral WMCA Governance, a reformed Fire Authority,
(Agenda Item No. 5)

Fire Authority Meeting 25 June 2018,

Governance of the Authority 2018-2019,
(Agenda Item No. 9)

Appointment of Co-opted Members,
(Agenda Item No. 10)

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CLERK to the Authority