

WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

19th April 2010

1. **APPROVED DUTY – CHAIR OF THE MEMBER DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP**

Report of the Clerk.

RECOMMENDED

THAT attendance by the Chair of the Member Development Working Group at any meetings associated with the Authority's work towards achieving the West Midlands Member Development Charter be regarded as an approved duty for the purpose of travelling and subsistence allowances.

2. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

The report is submitted to seek authority to allow the Chair of the Member Development Working Group (MDWG) to claim travel and subsistence allowance for attendance at meetings associated with the Authority's work towards achieving the West Midlands Member Development Charter.

3. **BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 At its meeting on 21st September, 2009, the Authority signed up to the West Midlands Member Development Charter and decided to work towards Primary Status. In doing so, it established the MDWG to take forward and oversee the work towards the Charter.
- 3.2 The current Members' Allowances Scheme regards "a meeting of the Authority or of any Committee or Sub-Committee of the Authority" as an approved duty and members of the MDWG are therefore able to claim travel and subsistence allowance for attendance at its meetings.
- 3.3 In addition to the formal meetings of the MDWG however, its Chair may be required from time to time to meet informally with officers and advisors from the West Midlands Leaders' Board involved with the Charter work. As the date for Charter assessment approaches, which it is anticipated will be in the autumn, the frequency of these

meetings may increase. It is therefore proposed that attendance at these meetings be regarded as an approved duty for the purpose of travel and subsistence allowances.

4. **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

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

5. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

Members' allowances schemes are regulated by the Local Government (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003.

6. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Provision exists within the Authority's budget to meet the costs of claims made under the Members' Allowances Scheme.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority Members' Allowances Scheme

SUSAN PHELPS
CLERK