

CHESHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY

MEETING OF: GOVERNANCE AND CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE
DATE: 10th JULY 2024
REPORT OF: DIRECTOR OF GOVERNANCE
AUTHOR: ANDREW LEADBETTER

SUBJECT: DISPENSATION

Purpose of the Report

1. To ask Members to extend the benefit of the existing dispensation to new Members of the Fire Authority to allow them to take part in debates and votes upon the approval of the Members' Allowances Scheme (and any changes and/or additions to it).

Recommended that:

- [1] The dispensation granted to Fire Authority Members on 30th January 2024 be extended to benefit the new Members of the Fire Authority that have requested it, thereby allowing them to take part in the debates and votes on the approval of the Members' Allowances Scheme (and any changes and/or additions to it).

Background

2. The dispensation was granted by the Governance and Constitution Committee on 30th January 2024 to all Members of the Fire Authority. The dispensation relates to the approval of the Members' Allowances Scheme (and any changes and/or additions to it) and is effective until January 2028.

Information

3. In considering whether to grant a dispensation Members are required to consider the provisions in Section 33 of the Localism Act 2011 (the Act). A copy of the section is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.
4. Section 33(1) states that there must be a written request from a Member to the proper officer (taken to be the Monitoring Officer). The names of the new Members that have confirmed that they wish to take advantage of the dispensation will be confirmed at the meeting.
5. Section 33(2) states that a dispensation can only be granted by an Authority if, after having had regard to all relevant circumstances, it is satisfied that one of the reasons described is applicable. Members previously accepted that they were satisfied that at least one of the

reasons listed applies to the Members' Allowances Scheme when granting the dispensation.

Financial Implications

6. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Legal Implications

7. The legal implications are covered in the body of the report.

Equality and Diversity and Environmental Implications

8. There are no equality and diversity or environmental implications arising from this report.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS: NONE