

CHESHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY

MEETING OF: CHESHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY
DATE: 14TH FEBRUARY 2018
REPORT OF: DIRECTOR OF GOVERNANCE AND COMMISSIONING
AUTHOR: ANDREW LEADBETTER

SUBJECT: MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME 2018-19

Purpose of Report

1. To allow Members to determine the level of Members' allowances for 2018-19.

Recommended That Members determine:

- [1] the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2018-19 (contained in Appendix 1); and
- [2] that any National Joint Council (NJC) for Local Government Employees (Green Book) increase be applied to the Scheme from the date specified in the NJC notification.

Background

2. In October 2016 the Governance and Constitution Committee considered a report and agreed a revised process for the review of the Members' Allowances Scheme which was concluded with the assistance of a member of Cheshire East's Independent Remuneration Panel [IRP member]. The IRP member's recommendations and observations were presented to the Fire Authority on 14th February 2017 and it was agreed that the revised scheme be approved from 2017-18 onwards. A 1% increase was applied to the 2017-18 scheme in line with the National Joint Council (NJC) for Local Government Services agreed pay award applicable to support staff.
3. The review also led to a decision that the index to be applied to the Members' Allowance Scheme would continue to be the NJC for any annual increase to the Members' Basic, Special Responsibility (and independent (non-elected) members) allowances.

2018-19 Members' Allowances Scheme

4. The NJC is currently negotiating the 2018 pay deal with the relevant unions and it is anticipated that any increase, once the parties have reached agreement, will be applied from 1st April 2018. In the meantime, Members are asked to consider and approve the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2018-19 (**attached as Appendix 1**). This Scheme will be applicable until the NJC publishes the pay scales and allowances for 2018. At that point

allowances in the Scheme will be uplifted by any NJC increase from the date specified by the NJC. It will also be published on the Service's website.

Financial Implications

5. It is anticipated that annual increases based on the NJC can be funded from the Authority's existing budget for Members' allowances.

Legal Implications

6. Whilst the Authority has already agreed its approach to the uplift of allowances Members could decide to apply a different rate if they believed this was justified.

Equality & Diversity Implications

7. There are no equality and diversity implications.

Environmental Implications

8. There are no environmental implications.

**CONTACT: JOANNE SMITH, FIRE SERVICE HQ, WINSFORD
TEL [01606] 868804**