

# CHESHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY

MEETING OF: GOVERNANCE AND CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE  
DATE : 14 NOVEMBER 2018  
REPORT OF : DIRECTOR OF GOVERNANCE AND COMMISSIONING  
AUTHOR: ANDREW LEADBETTER

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SUBJECT: MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME 2019-20

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## Purpose of Report

1. To enable Members to consider the Members' Allowances Scheme and make a recommendation to the Fire Authority about the Scheme for 2019-20.

**Recommended:** That Members

- [1] Recommend the Members' Allowance Scheme for 2019/20 to the Fire Authority and consider whether to recommend that it applies an uplift (annual increase) in 2019/20.

## Background

### The Law

2. The provisions governing Members' allowances are contained in the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 [the Regulations]. The Regulations do not apply to the Fire Authority in full.
3. Part 2 of the Regulations prescribes the allowances that may be paid and rules relating to such allowances. Part 3 of the Regulations sets out the requirements for members' allowances schemes, e.g. the application of indexation for annual adjustments to schemes. Part 4 of the Regulations is concerned with the role of the independent remuneration panel [IRP]. Local authorities (e.g. district, county and London boroughs) must have regard to recommendations of an IRP before they make or amend their scheme. A fire authority has a different obligation: it must have regard to the recommendations made by the IRPs of local authorities that appoint its Members (i.e. the constituent authorities). By virtue of this distinction it is clear that the Fire Authority is not required to have its own IRP.

### The 2016-17 Review

4. The Members' Allowance Scheme was reviewed with the assistance of a member of Cheshire East's Independent Remuneration Panel in 2016-17. The Members' Allowance Scheme has been based on the outcome of that review for 2017-18 and 2018-19 (albeit in 2018-19 no increase was applied).

## **Information**

5. The members' allowance schemes of the four constituent authorities have been checked and they do not contain any elements that have an impact upon the Fire Authority's Members' Allowance Scheme.
6. The figures in the Members' Allowance Scheme attached as Appendix 1 to this report are identical to those that were approved by the Fire Authority on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2018 as no uplift was applied.
7. Members may wish to recommend not only the Scheme, but also the application of an uplift (i.e. the annual increase for the Scheme) for 2019-20. As drafted, the Scheme includes the uplift at paragraph 11.

## **Financial Implications**

8. Annual increases based on an index like the NJC can be funded from the Authority's existing budget for Members' allowances.

## **Legal Implications**

9. The Fire Authority is required to have a scheme to cover its Members' allowances. It is not bound to have an independent remuneration panel. However, it is required to have regard to any recommendations made by the panels of the constituent authorities.

## **Equality and Diversity Implications**

10. There are no equality and diversity implications.

## **Environmental Implications**

11. There are no environmental implications.

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**BACKGROUND PAPERS: NONE.**