

CHESHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY

MEETING OF: CHESHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY
DATE : 12 DECEMBER 2018
REPORT OF : DIRECTOR OF GOVERNANCE AND COMMISSIONING
AUTHOR: ANDREW LEADBETTER

SUBJECT: MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME 2019-20

Purpose of Report

1. To enable Members to determine the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2019-20.

Recommended: That Members

- [1] Approve the Members' Allowance Scheme for 2019/20 attached to this report as Appendix 1.

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 regards 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).

Governance and Constitution Committee

5. The Members' Allowance Scheme 2019-20 was considered by the Governance and Constitution Committee in November 2018 and it was agreed that an uplift should be included.

Information

6. 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.
7. 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 14th February 2018 as no uplift was applied last year. The uplift has been reflatd (see paragraph 11) so the allowance would increase in line with pay increases of staff on the NJC.

Note

On preparing this paper it was noted that the version of the Members' Allowances Scheme considered by the Governance and Constitution Committee was from 2017-18. The correct version is attached to this report.

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.