

# CHESHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY

**MEETING OF:** GOVERNANCE AND CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE  
**DATE:** 10<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2021  
**REPORT OF:** DIRECTOR OF GOVERNANCE AND COMMISSIONING  
**AUTHOR:** ANDREW LEADBETTER

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**SUBJECT:** DISPENSATIONS

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## Purpose of the Report

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

## Recommended that:

- [1] The dispensations granted to Fire Authority Members on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2020 be extended to benefit the new Members of the Fire Authority that have requested them, thereby allowing them to take part in the debates and votes on the setting of the Council Tax precept, and approval of the Members' Allowance scheme (and any changes and/or additions to it).

## Background

2. Dispensations were granted by the Governance and Constitution Committee on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2020 to all Members of the Fire Authority. The dispensations relate to the setting of the Council Tax precept and the approval of the Members' Allowance Scheme (and any changes and/or additions to it) and are effective until January 2024.

## Information

3. In considering whether to grant dispensations 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 dispensations will be stated 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 setting of the Council Tax precept and the Members' Allowance Scheme when granting the dispensations. An extract from an earlier report is attached as Appendix 2 to this report to remind Members of the relevant matters.

### **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.

**CONTACT: DONNA LINTON, CLEMONDS HEY, WINSFORD**  
**TEL [01606] 868804**  
**BACKGROUND PAPERS: NONE**