

## CHESHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY

**MEETING OF:** GOVERNANCE AND CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE  
**DATE :** 10 NOVEMBER 2021  
**REPORT OF:** DIRECTOR OF GOVERNANCE AND COMMISSIONING  
**AUTHOR:** ANDREW LEADBETTER

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**SUBJECT:** MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME 2022-23

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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 2022-23.

**Recommended:** That Members

- [1] Agree the revised Members' Allowances Scheme for 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022-31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 and recommend its approval to the Fire Authority.

### 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 potential to apply an index for annual adjustments to schemes (which can be relied upon for no longer than a period of four years). 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.
4. The Members' Allowances Scheme must be approved each year by the Fire Authority.

## The 2020 Review

5. The Members' Allowances Scheme was reviewed with the assistance of an Independent Reviewer and approved by the Fire Authority on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2021. The approved Scheme applies up to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025.

## **Information**

6. The draft Members' Allowance Scheme for 2022-23 is attached to this report as Appendix 1.
7. There have been no notifications from the constituent authorities of recommendations from their IRPs.
8. The Scheme was not uplifted for 2021-22 as Members decided not to apply the Index (see paragraph 11 of the draft Members' Allowances Scheme 2022-23). The uplift will be applied during 2022-23 unless Members specifically exclude it.

## **Financial Implications**

9. An annual increase could be funded from the Authority's existing budget for Members' allowances.

## **Legal Implications**

10. The Fire Authority is required to have a scheme to cover its Members' allowances. The scheme must be approved each year. 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**

11. There are no equality and diversity implications.

## **Environmental Implications**

12. There are no environmental implications.

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**BACKGROUND PAPERS: NONE.**