

**26 September 2013**

**Updates to the HFRA Members' Allowances Scheme**

**Report of the Clerk**

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**1 Summary**

- 1.1 This report concerns the existing HFRA Members' Allowances Scheme which has been in operation since 1 April 2013. County Council elections during May 2013 have incurred party political changes, specifically, the emergence of an additional minority group on the Authority. It has subsequently been requested that consideration be given to an extension of the Special Responsibility Allowances for minority group spokespersons, under the Scheme.

**2 Recommendation**

- 2.1 That, the Authority reviews and considers whether to agree an amendment to the HFRA Members' Allowances Scheme for 2013/14, to include provision for a minority group spokesperson Special Responsibility Allowance for the UKIP Group.
- 2.2 That for the purpose of implementation, this amendment be backdated to the Annual Meeting of the Authority on 14 June 2013, being the date on which the new political group was formed.

**3 Statutory Requirements**

- 3.1 The Local Authority (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 require local authorities, including fire and rescue authorities, to make a scheme providing for the payment to members of basic and other allowances in respect of each year commencing 1 April. The legislation allows for the Scheme to be amended once it is in force, with the agreement of the Authority.

**4 Current Members' Allowances Scheme**

- 4.1 The current Members' Allowances Scheme was adopted by the HFRA on 1 April 2013. The Scheme is attached as Appendix A to this report.
- 4.2 Since its adoption in April, a new minority Group has been formed on the Authority following the County Council elections for Hampshire during May 2013 and subsequent appointments to the Authority.
- 4.3 At present, there is no reference to UKIP as a minority Group under the HFRA Members' Allowances Scheme in terms of entitlement to the minority

spokesperson allowance (Special Responsibility Allowance). The two other minority Groups, Labour and Liberal Democrat, are named within the Scheme, and provision is made for a minority spokesperson allowance for each of them.

- 4.4 In light of the emergence of an additional minority group following the elections, the Authority is asked to consider whether the HFRA Members' Allowances Scheme should be amended to make provision for UKIP in terms of the minority group spokesperson allowance, under the Special Responsibility Allowances section (as shown under Section 4 of current published Scheme).
- 4.5 The recommendation of the Independent Remuneration Panel, in their consideration of the 2013/14 Members' Allowances Scheme was "that a more detailed review of the Members' Allowances Scheme be undertaken within 2013-14 if possible, and by March 2015 at the latest...". A meeting of the IRP will be convened in late 2013 to report in February 2014 and it is therefore proposed to proceed with this amendment to the Scheme without further reference to the IRP at this point.

## **5 Equality Impact Assessment**

- 5.1 The payment of allowances to local authority members enables persons from a wide variety of backgrounds and economic circumstances to consider participation in public life.

## **6 Section 100D – Local Government Act 1972 – background papers**

- 6.1 The following documents disclose the facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and has been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report.

N.B. The list excludes:

Published works.

Documents that disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.

NONE

## APPENDIX A

### Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority

### The Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003

#### Members Allowances Scheme 2013/2014

1. Basic allowance - £2,943 per annum
2. Special responsibility allowances:
  - Chairman of the Authority - £14,469 per annum
  - Vice Chairman of the Authority - £1,769 per annum
  - Chairman of Committees (x 4):
    - Finance and General Purposes - £7,305 per annum
    - Standards and Governance - £3,535 per annum
    - Human Resources - £7,305 per annum
    - Performance Review - £4,121 per annum
  - Vice Chairman of Committees (x 4):
    - Finance and General Purposes - £1,769 per annum
    - Standards and Governance - £881 per annum
    - Human Resources - £1,769 per annum
    - Performance Review - £1,063 per annum
3. Independent Person to the Fire Authority (in accordance with the requirements of the Localism Act) - £500 per annum
4. Minority Spokespersons on HFRA:
  - Liberal Democrat Party - £7,238 per annum
  - Labour Party - £3,616 per annum
5. Member for Communication Liaison - £1,063 per annum  
(no appointment made)
6. Financial recognition for Members involved in Disciplining/Grievance Hearings  
(should it be necessary for Members to be involved, financial recognition to equate with LGA rates in such cases)

#### 6.1.1 Special responsibility allowances

Only one special responsibility allowance is payable to any member under the scheme.  
**(The allowances in brackets will not be paid whilst the current postholder receives a higher special responsibility allowance in respect of another post.)**