

Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority

19 February 2014

HFRA Members' Allowances Scheme

Report of the Clerk

Contact: Kevin Greenhough 01962 847483

1 Summary

- 1.1 This report sets out the requirement and process for the approval of a Members' Allowances Scheme for HFRA Members from April 2014.

2 Recommendation

- 2.1 **That, with regard to the recommendations of the relevant IRPs, the Authority considers and agrees a new Members' Allowances Scheme for implementation from 1 April 2014.**

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 allowance and any other specified allowances the Authority intends to make in respect of each year commencing 1 April. The scheme must be made by the Authority before it comes into force.
- 3.2 Before making a scheme, county and district councils are required to have regard to the recommendations of an independent remuneration panel. The position is slightly different for fire and rescue authorities, who are required to have regard to any recommendation of independent remuneration panels established by those authorities by whom its members are nominated. In this case, those authorities are Hampshire County Council, Portsmouth City Council and Southampton City Council.

4 Current Members' Allowances Scheme

- 4.1 The current Members' Allowances Scheme was adopted by the HFRA in February 2013, for implementation in April 2013, for a one year period. The Scheme that was agreed was an extension of the 2010-12 Schemes with minor updates resulting from legislative and structural changes.

- 4.2 Since the 2013 Scheme was agreed, the Authority agreed an amendment (in September 2013) to include provision for a Special Responsibility Allowance for the UKIP Group spokesperson. The current (amended) Scheme is attached at appendix 1 of this report.

5 Meeting of Independent Remuneration Panel Representatives

- 5.1 In accordance with the requirements outlined in Paragraph 3 of this report, a meeting of IRP representatives from the nominating Authorities was convened on 21 January 2014. In attendance were the Chairmen of the Hampshire IRP and the Portsmouth IRP and it was noted that no representative was available from the Southampton IRP. The recommendations made by the IRPs to their respective Local Authorities are attached at appendix 3.
- 5.2 The IRP members in attendance were asked to make a recommendation to Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority with regard to the Members' Allowances Scheme from 1 April 2014. To inform the discussion, the existing HFRA Scheme, as well as those of the nominating authorities were made available, as were the terms of reference for the four HFRA standing committees. Fire and Rescue Authority Members were informed of the meeting and given the opportunity to make a representation to the IRP members about the Scheme. The draft notes of the meeting are attached at appendix 2 of this report.
- 5.3 The IRP representatives agreed a set of recommendations as follows:
- i. That the Authority be recommended to approve the implementation of a Members' Allowances Scheme from April 2014, to include an adjustment in SRA and Basic allowances at the same percentage adjustment as that applying to the nationally agreed pay award to Local Government staff for 2014-15. That in considering the implementation of such a Scheme, the Authority be advised to take in to account the potential likelihood of pressure for a more substantial increase in Allowances in the longer-term, should Allowances not be adjusted incrementally.
 - ii. That the Authority be recommended to consider initiating a review of the Members' Allowances scheme, to include an evaluation of SRA roles and benchmarking with comparable Authorities.

6 Further Reference

- 6.1 The existing HFRA Members' Allowances Scheme, is appended to this report as appendix 1.
- 6.2 The draft notes of the meeting of IRP representatives are attached at appendix 2.
- 6.3 The recommendations made by the IRPs to their respective Local Authorities are attached at appendix 3.

7 Equality Impact Assessment

- 7.1 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.

Section 100D – Local Government Act 1972 – background papers

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.

TITLE	FILE
None	