

Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority

8 December, 2010

Members' Allowances Scheme 2011/12

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1. Introduction

1.1. In the recent past, the Authority convened its own independent remuneration panel to advise on its Members' Allowances Scheme. However, at its meeting on 23 September, 2010, the Governance Committee was invited to consider the case for reporting this year's annual review of the Members' Allowances Scheme direct to the Authority in December for determination.

1.2. The Governance Committee unanimously supported taking the item direct to the Authority having taken into account the following:-

- (i) There is no statutory requirement on the Authority to establish its own independent remuneration panel.
- (ii) In the present economic climate it may be regarded as likely that all rates may simply remain frozen for a further year, in which case an independent remuneration panel may add little value.
- (iii) The possibility of avoiding time and expense involved in convening a separate panel.

2. The Members' Allowances Scheme for 2011/12 is now before the Authority for consideration. In the light of the present economic climate and other budgetary constraints, the recommendation being proposed by the Chairman of the Authority is to freeze all rates for the next two years (2011/12 and 2012/13) at 2010/11 levels .

3. The current HFRA Members' Allowances Scheme 2010/11 is set out as an appendix to the report.

RECOMMENDATION:

3.1. That all Members' Allowances be frozen at existing rates for the next two years (2011/12 and 2012/13) at 2010/11 levels.

4. Statutory Requirements

4.1. 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 1st April. The scheme must be made by the Authority before it comes into force.

- 4.2. 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.

5. **Current Position**

- 5.1. The Authority has regard to any recommendations of panels established by Hampshire County Council, Portsmouth City Council and Southampton City Council when making its Members' Allowances Scheme, as the legislation requires. Those organising the IRP's for each of these authorities have been asked for any observations made by their IRP's that may be relevant to the HFRA Scheme but none have been notified.

- 5.2. The Authority approved its scheme for 2010/11 on 9 December, 2009. The Authority accepted the recommendations of its own Panel that, having regard to the economic climate and budgetary constraints, basic and special responsibility allowance rates should be frozen at existing rates with no increase for 2010/11. The Authority also accepted the Panel's recommendation that, as the last significant review of the Scheme was in 2005 and as there have been a number of changes in Authority membership in 2009 a full appraisal of the scheme be undertaken in 2010/11. This has not been actioned at the present time due to the proposal to freeze all allowances .

6. **Contribution to Corporate Aims and Objectives**

- 6.1. The consideration and adoption of a Members' Allowances Scheme in public session makes a contribution to transparency in the application of public funds towards remuneration of Members.

7. **Risk Analysis**

- 7.1. None.

8. **Resources Implications**

- 8.1. The cost of the Members' Allowances Scheme is budgeted for each year and will form part of the Authority's budget for 2011/12.

9. **Human Resources Implications**

9.1. None.

10. Physical and ICT Resources Implications

10.1. None.

11. Financial Implications

11.1. The annual cost of the Members' Allowances Scheme is built into the Authority's budget each year.

12. People Impact Assessment

12.1. The proposals are compatible with equalities requirements.

13. Conclusion

13.1. The Authority's asked to consider and agree its Members' Allowances Scheme 2011/12 with effect from 1 April, 2011.

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
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None

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HAMPSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES' (MEMBERS ALLOWANCES) (ENGLAND)
REGULATIONS 2003

CURRENT MEMBERS ALLOWANCES SCHEME 2010/11

	£	
	per annum	
(i) Basic Allowance	2,943	
(ii) Special Responsibility Allowances		
<p>Only one special responsibility allowance is payable to any Member under the scheme. <u>(The allowances in brackets will not be paid whilst the current postholder receives a higher special responsibility allowance in respect of another post).</u></p>		
Chairman of the Authority	14,469	
Vice-Chairman of the Authority (x 2)	(1,769) (1,769)	
Chairman of Committees (x 5)		
Finance and General Purposes	7,305	
Governance	3,535	
Human Resources	7,305	
Performance Review	4,121	
Standards	1,944	
Vice-Chairman of Committees		
Finance and General Purposes	(1,769)	
Governance	881	
Human Resources	1,769	
Performance Review	1,063	
Standards	486	
Independent Members (x3) serving on Standards Cttee	666	each
Minority Spokespersons on HFRA		
Liberal Democrat Party	7,238	
Labour Party	3,616	
Board Director of South-East Fire and Rescue Control Centre	(2,000)	
Member for Communication Liaison	(1,063)	
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)

Note : The mileage rate paid to Members of the Authority is on the basis of 53.8 pence per mile.

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