

Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority



MEETING	Executive Committee
DATE OF MEETING	20 November 2013
OFFICER	Graham Britten, Director of Legal & Governance
LEAD MEMBER	Councillor Adrian Busby
SUBJECT OF THE REPORT	Members' Allowances
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	<p>The Authority is required to adopt a Scheme of Members' Allowances before 1 April each year and, in so doing, have regard to the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panels of the constituent authorities when considering its Scheme of Members' Allowances and confirm that it has done so when it gives public notice of the Scheme of Allowances.</p> <p>The Authority agreed at its meeting on 14 December 2011, that the index linking for the period 2012/13 to 2014/15 – for basic and special responsibility (and co-optee) allowances - be the pay award for the Authority's staff on National Joint Council for Local Authorities' Fire and Rescue Services, Scheme of Conditions of Service (Grey Book).</p> <p>The pay award for the Authority's staff on Grey Book conditions for 2013/14 was 1% with effect from 1 July 2013.</p>
ACTION	Decision.
RECOMMENDATIONS	That the Authority be recommended to adopt the Scheme for Members' Allowances for 2014/15.
RISK MANAGEMENT	The recommendation will have no adverse effect on the Authority's business.
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	<p>The current budget for Members' Allowances (Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances) is £70,605, including National Insurance.</p> <p>Costs will be incurred in publishing a notice that the Authority has made a Scheme of Members' Allowances in one of more newspapers circulating in its area. This additional cost is estimated to be in the region of £800.</p>

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	Set out above.
HEALTH AND SAFETY	Not applicable.
EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY	<p>The Authority's Scheme of Members' Allowances does not include any element for meeting costs incurred by a Member who has to arrange care in order to carry out their function as a Member of the Fire Authority.</p> <p>The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 exclude the Authority from including such a provision in its Scheme. However, with the exception of co-opted members, all Members are appointed by either Buckinghamshire County Council or Milton Keynes Council and are entitled to claim "dependent carers' allowance" from their appointing authority. There are currently no co-opted members on the Authority.</p>
USE OF RESOURCES	The recommendation is consistent with the extant Scheme of Allowances.
PROVENANCE SECTION & BACKGROUND PAPERS	<p>Buckinghamshire County Council terms of reference require a review of the scheme to be undertaken every four years. The four-yearly review will be carried out in 2014. A part review was undertaken in 2013 and revisions made to the Special Responsibility Allowances after approval of the Panel's recommendations by full Council. Following the recent County Council elections, the Panel has now been asked by the Deputy Leader to consider some further changes to the Scheme:</p> <p>http://democracy.buckscc.gov.uk/documents/s42327/REPORT%20OF%20THE%20INDEPENDENT%20PANEL%20ON%20MEMBER%20ALLOWANCES.pdf</p> <p>The seventh report by the Independent Remuneration Panel of the scheme for Milton Keynes Council was implemented from the start of the financial year 2011:</p> <p>http://cmis.milton-keynes.gov.uk/CmisWebPublic/Binary.ashx?Document=32290</p> <p>Milton Keynes Council next review will be completed before their elections in 2014.</p> <p>Fire Authority Meeting 19 December 2012 http://www.bucksfire.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/0A2255BE-5D72-40AB-A89D-9D1383B1454E/0/FireAuthority19December2012.pdf</p> <p>Scheme for Members' Allowances 2013/14: http://www.bucksfire.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/09F04836-</p>

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APPENDICES	Annex A Scheme for Members' Allowances 2014/15.
TIME REQUIRED	10 Minutes.
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