

Report considered by the Executive Committee – 19 November 2014

# Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority



<b>MEETING</b>	Executive Committee
<b>DATE OF MEETING</b>	19 November 2014
<b>OFFICER</b>	Graham Britten, Director of Legal & Governance
<b>LEAD MEMBER</b>	Councillor Adrian Busby
<b>SUBJECT OF THE REPORT</b>	<b>Members' Allowances</b>
<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b>	<p>The Authority is required to adopt a Scheme of Members' Allowances before 1 April each year and, in so doing, have due 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>Buckinghamshire County Council's terms of reference require a review of the Scheme of Members Allowances to be undertaken every four years and this is currently in the process of being carried out. A part review was undertaken in 2013 and is attached at Appendix A.</p> <p>The Independent Remuneration Panel of the scheme for Milton Keynes Council undertook a review earlier this year and this is attached at Appendix B.</p> <p>Previously 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>It is recommended that the Authority continue this for the period 2015/16.</p> <p>The pay award for the Authority's staff on Grey Book conditions for 2014/15 was 1% with effect from 1 July 2014.</p>
<b>ACTION</b>	Decision.
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	That the Authority be recommended to adopt the Scheme for Members' Allowances for 2015/16.

<b>RISK MANAGEMENT</b>	The recommendation will have no adverse effect on the Authority's business.
<b>FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS</b>	<p>The current budget for Members' Allowances (Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances) is £70,780, including National Insurance.</p> <p>Costs will be incurred in publishing a notice that the Authority has made a Scheme of Members' Allowances in a newspaper circulating in its area. This additional cost is estimated to be in the region of £800.</p>
<b>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS</b>	Set out above.
<b>HEALTH AND SAFETY</b>	Not applicable.
<b>EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY</b>	<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>
<b>USE OF RESOURCES</b>	The recommendation is consistent with the extant Scheme of Allowances.
<b>PROVENANCE SECTION &amp; BACKGROUND PAPERS</b>	<p>BMKFA Scheme for Members' Allowances 2014/15:</p> <p><a href="http://bucksfire.gov.uk/files/1114/0438/9728/Scheme-Allowances201415.pdf">http://bucksfire.gov.uk/files/1114/0438/9728/Scheme-Allowances201415.pdf</a></p>
<b>APPENDICES</b>	<p>Appendix A: Report of the Independent Panel on Member Allowances for Buckinghamshire County Council 2013.</p> <p>Appendix B: Milton Keynes Council report of the Independent Panel of Members' Allowances March 2014.</p> <p>Appendix C: Draft Scheme for Members' Allowances 2015/16.</p>
<b>TIME REQUIRED</b>	10 Minutes.
<b>REPORT ORIGINATOR AND CONTACT</b>	<p>Katie Nellist</p> <p><a href="mailto:knellist@bucksfire.gov.uk">knellist@bucksfire.gov.uk</a></p> <p>01296 744633</p>