

# Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority



<b>MEETING</b>	Executive Committee
<b>DATE OF MEETING</b>	6 February 2019
<b>OFFICER</b>	Graham Britten, Director of Legal and Governance
<b>LEAD MEMBER</b>	Councillor Roger Reed, Chairman
<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 own 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 was carried out in January 2015 following a part review which was undertaken in 2013. The review carried out in January 2015 is attached at <b>Appendix A</b>. A scheduled review by a new Independent Remuneration Panel for 2019 has been postponed due to proposed changes to governance arrangements.</p> <p>The Independent Remuneration Panel of the scheme for Milton Keynes Council undertook a review in January 2018 and this is attached at <b>Appendix B</b>.</p> <p>Further to a meeting of the Authority's Executive Committee on 7 February 2018 comparative data has been collected from websites of other combined fire and rescue authorities (<b>Appendix C</b>) and the views of the three group leaders ascertained.</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 (NJC) for Local Authorities' Fire and Rescue Services, Scheme of Conditions of Service (Grey Book).</p> <p>It is recommended that the Authority continue this indexation for the period 2019/20.</p> <p>The NJC Circular NJC/4/18 of 2 October 2018 confirmed a 2% pay award effective from 1 July 2018. The effects of a 2% increase with no alterations to</p>

	either Group Leader or Lead Member entitlements are reflected in <b>Appendix D</b> .
<b>ACTION</b>	Decision
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	That the Authority be recommended to adopt a Scheme for Members' Allowances for 2019/20 ( <b>Appendix D</b> )
<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 £72,780, 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. The cost is estimated to be in the region of £800 (<i>£788.40 last year</i>).</p>
<b>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS</b>	The making or amendment of the Members' Scheme of Allowances is a function reserved to a meeting of the Authority. An amendment may be made by the Authority in year. Regulation 10(4) of Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 provides that "A scheme may make provision for an annual adjustment of allowances by reference to such index as may be specified by the authority and where the only change made to a scheme in any year is that effected by such annual adjustment in accordance with such index the scheme shall be deemed not to have been amended."
<b>CONSISTENCY WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF THE DUTY TO COLLABORATE</b>	The making of a scheme of allowances is the responsibility of each individual authority defined in the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003. The methodology for doing so is prescribed exclusively by those regulations.
<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' allowances" 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>Minute EX26 of the Executive Committee Meeting of 7 February 2018: <i>'A discussion was held about Group Leaders' Allowances in the constituent authorities where proportionality was applied based on size of group; and where only one SRA can be claimed. The Chief Fire Officer suggested that the Director of Legal and Governance could look at the Scheme of Members' Allowances in consultation with the Group Leaders. The Director of Legal and Governance advised Members that he would undertake a review, but it would ultimately be for the Authority to decide on what it wished to adopt having regard to the IRP reports of Buckinghamshire County Council and Milton Keynes Council'.</i></p> <p><a href="#">Minutes of the Executive Committee 7 February 2018</a></p> <p>BMKFA Scheme for Members' Allowances 2018/19:  <a href="https://bucksfire.gov.uk/files/8515/2206/8006/MEMBERS_ALLOWANCES_201819.pdf">https://bucksfire.gov.uk/files/8515/2206/8006/MEMBERS_ALLOWANCES_201819.pdf</a></p> <p><a href="#">Circular NJC/4/18</a></p>
<b>APPENDICES</b>	<p>Appendix A: Report of the Independent Panel on Member Allowances for Buckinghamshire County Council January 2015.</p> <p>Appendix B: Milton Keynes Council report of the Independent Panel of Members' Allowances January 2018.</p> <p>Appendix C: Comparative Data Combined Fire and Rescue Authorities</p> <p>Appendix D: Draft Scheme for Members' Allowances 2019/20.</p>
<b>TIME REQUIRED</b>	10 minutes.
<b>REPORT ORIGINATOR AND CONTACT</b>	<p>Katie Nellist  <a href="mailto:Knellist@bucksfire.gov.uk">Knellist@bucksfire.gov.uk</a>  01296 744633</p>