



Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority

MEETING	Executive Committee
DATE OF MEETING	5 February 2020
OFFICER	Graham Britten, Director of Legal and Governance
LEAD MEMBER	Councillor Lesley Clarke OBE, Chairman
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 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>The Independent Remuneration Panel of the scheme for Milton Keynes Council undertook a review in January 2018 and this is attached at Appendix A.</p> <p>Buckinghamshire County Council's terms of reference required 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. A scheduled review by a new Independent Remuneration Panel for 2019 was postponed due to the proposed changes to governance arrangements. The Buckinghamshire Shadow Authority 2019 Order requires the Shadow Authority to prepare and make a scheme for the payment of allowances. The Independent Remuneration Panel has met and its report is due to go to the Shadow Authority Meeting on 27 February 2020.</p> <p>If the report is made available prior to the meeting of the Authority on 12 February, its recommendations will be circulated to Members before or by the date of the meeting.</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</p>

	<p>indexation for the period 2020/21.</p> <p>The NJC Circular NJC/3/19 of 5 September 2019 confirmed a 2% pay award effective from 1 July 2019. The effects of a 2% increase are reflected in Appendix B.</p>
ACTION	Decision
RECOMMENDATIONS	That the Authority be recommended to adopt a Scheme for Members' Allowances for 2020/21 (Appendix B)
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 £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>
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	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."
CONSISTENCY WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF THE DUTY TO COLLABORATE	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.
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</p>

Members' Allowances

	entitled to claim "dependent carers' allowances" from their appointing authority. There are currently no co-opted members on the Authority.
USE OF RESOURCES	The recommendation is consistent with the extant Scheme of Allowances.
PROVENANCE SECTION & BACKGROUND PAPERS	NJC/3/19 – NJC Circular 05/09/19
APPENDICES	Appendix A: Milton Keynes Council report of the Independent Panel of Members' Allowances January 2018. Appendix B: Draft Scheme for Members' Allowances 2020/21.
TIME REQUIRED	10 minutes.
REPORT ORIGINATOR AND CONTACT	Katie Nellist Knellist@bucksfire.gov.uk 01296 744633