

## Members' Allowances Scheme

Fire Authority Members receive certain allowances in recognition of their various duties. A scheme of allowances for Members was agreed by the Authority on 25 September 2003, which includes the following amounts for 2008/09:

- a basic allowance – an annual basic allowance of £1163.32 is paid to all Members
- special responsibility allowances – the following additional allowances are paid to Members with special responsibilities:

Chair of the Authority £9031.56

Vice Chair of the Authority £5418.96

Political Group Leaders £1354.73

Chairman of Audit & Standards Committee £1354.68

Chairman of Policy & Resources Committee £1354.68

Please note:

- Members with more than one special responsibility will only receive one special responsibility allowance at the higher appropriate level.
- Allowances are adjusted annually in line with the Consumer Price Index.
- Independent Members of the Standards Committee are not eligible for a basic or special responsibility allowance but can claim for travel and subsistence allowance.

The Members' Allowances Scheme also includes the following travel and subsistence allowances:

### **Travel Allowance**

Allowances for travel by car are made at the approved rate. Members can also claim for travel by motorbike or cycle in line with the rate used by the Inland Revenue.

### **Passenger Allowance**

Members can claim an allowance as driver in respect of one or more passengers who are fellow Authority Members carried on Authority business.

### **Travelling by taxi/public transport**

Members can claim for use of public transport on a cost basis. Where travel by bus is practicable bus rates will be paid. Taxi fares may be claimed where bus/train travel is not practical. Receipts will be required.

### **Subsistence Allowances**

Members can claim subsistence allowance payments as a reimbursement of actual expenditure, on the basis that reasonable expenses evidenced by receipts will be paid. Similarly, overnight accommodation expenses will be paid where this is necessary and is evidenced by receipts.

### **Carers and Dependents Allowance**

Members can claim an additional allowance to cover expenditure incurred for the care of dependents as follows:

- i) £6.09 per hour;
- ii) Payable in respect of attendance at meetings of the Authority, its committees and Member training events; and
- iii) Claims to be made only in respect of care provided by persons other than family members resident in the house and all claims to be evidenced by receipts.