

9. Members' Allowances Scheme

Purpose of Report

1. To consider the level of Members' Allowances in accordance with the provisions of the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 (the Regulations).

Recommendation

The Treasurer recommends that the Authority determines whether to increase Members' Allowances under the current arrangements.

Introduction and Background

2. In accordance with the Regulations, on 17 June 2007 the FRA agreed an annual adjustment in the level of Allowances in line with the Retail Prices Index (RPI). A copy of that decision is attached at Appendix 1 for information.
3. However, on 16 June 2008, the FRA amended this to an increase in line with the Consumer Price Index (CPI). A copy of this decision is also attached at Appendix 1 for information.
4. On 28 September 2010 the Authority considered whether the Allowances payable should be increased in line with the CPI and resolved that:
 - i) the level of Members' Allowances applicable from 1 April 2009 is retained for the period 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011; and
 - ii) the level of Members' Allowances is reviewed by June 2011.
5. The current levels of Allowances, applicable from 1 April 2010, are due to increase in line with CPI from 1 April 2011.
6. The relevant CPI index for the period would increase the rates by 4.05%.

Financial Considerations

Consideration	Yes/No	Reference in Report i.e. paragraph no.
There are financial issues that require consideration	Y	The whole report

Legal Considerations

Consideration	Yes/No	Reference in Report i.e. paragraph no.
There are legal issues e.g. contractual and procurement, reputational issues that require consideration	N	

Additional Considerations

7. The table below sets out any additional issues arising from the proposals contained in this report and identifies the relevant paragraphs in the report where such issues are addressed.

Consideration	Yes/No	Reference in Report i.e. paragraph no.
Resources (e.g. Assets, ICT, Human Resources, Training & Development, Sustainability).	N	
Strategic Policy Links (e.g. IRMP, Authority Plan, Equality & Diversity, Partnerships, Environmental Impact).	N	
Risk Management / Health & Safety (e.g. risk management and control measures, risk register score).	N	
Consultation with Representative Bodies	N	

Supporting Information

Appendix 1 – 17 June 2007: Fire and Rescue Authority - 14. Members' Allowances Scheme and Resolution dated 16 June 2008 re Fire and Rescue Authority - 9. Members' Allowances Agreement

Background papers - 25 Sept 2003: Combined Fire Authority – Members' Allowance Scheme

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RESOLUTION: 17 June 2007

586. (Agenda item 14) Members Allowances Scheme

Consideration was given to a report regarding the level of Members Allowances in accordance with the provisions of the Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003.

Resolved: that

- (a) subject to (b) below, the Members Allowances scheme for this Authority to continue this financial year at the levels agreed on 25 September 2003 as adjusted annually in line with the Retail Price Index; and**
- (b) the Independent Remuneration Panels of the Constituent Authorities be requested to advise on the level of Members Allowances being adjusted in line with the Consumer Price Index instead of the Retail Price Index and report back accordingly.**

RESOLUTION: 16 June 2008

639. MEMBERS' ALLOWANCE AGREEMENT

The Authority had previously agreed at its meeting on 11 June 2007 to request that the Independent Remuneration Panels of the Constituent Authorities consider whether the adjustment of Members' Allowances each year should remain in line with the Retail Prices Index (RPI) or whether it should be amended to be adjusted in line with the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

The Authority considered a report that summarised the feedback from the Herefordshire Independent Remuneration Panel and the Worcestershire Independent Remuneration Panel.

RESOLVED that Members' Allowances be amended to be adjusted each year in line with the Consumer Price Index.