

TO: Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority

FROM: Monitoring Officer - Shahin Ismail

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MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME 2020/21

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval from the Fire Authority of a Members' Allowances Scheme for the next 12 months.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 It is recommended that the allowance rates within Appendix 1 are agreed and applied for the next 12 months.

3. Risk Assessment

- 3.1 **Political** – membership of the Authority Committees has to comply with the requirements of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and reflect the overall political proportionality of the Authority except for those Committees where the requirement has been waived by unanimous vote of the Authority. This also ensures that no individual or political party will benefit disproportionately from the Scheme.
- 3.2 **Economic** – the Authority not only has a duty to ensure it complies with applicable statutory instruments but that any such scheme is managed efficiently, effectively and cognisant of any National Joint Council pay awards.
- 3.3 **Legal** – the Authority are required under the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 to put in place a compliant scheme for the payment of allowances to its Members. Failure to do so would place the Authority in breach of its legal duty.

4. Review Methodology

- 4.1 In keeping with historic arrangements, the most cost effective method of reviewing Member allowances (required every four years) is to ask Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) to consider Authority requirements as part of its own review.

- 4.2 Members will recall that CCC commissioned and subsequently rejected the report findings of an Independent Remuneration Panel on Members' Allowances at their meeting in July 2018 and approved an alternative scheme. In light of this and the potential for changes in fire governance, the Authority agreed a twelve month extension of their existing scheme for 2018/19 then 2019/20; this is due to expire on 31 March 2020.
- 4.3 As the situation regarding fire governance remains unclear it is felt that the Authority's existing scheme should prevail for a further 12 months. The scheme at Appendix 1 details a 2% cost of living increase in line with the National Joint Council increase applied to employee salaries in 2019; the travel and subsistence rates reflect those currently paid to Officers.
- 4.4 The cost of the scheme, based on current membership and committee structure (excluding ad-hoc additional responsibilities, travel and subsistence and Type 3 Project Boards which will fluctuate throughout the year) will be £80,245.76 in 2020/21.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Source Documents	Location	Contact Officer
<p>Members' Allowances Scheme</p> <p>The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003</p> <p>The National Association of Local Councils – The Good Councillor's Guide</p>	<p>Hinchingbrooke Cottage Brampton Road Huntingdon PE29 2NA</p>	<p>Monitoring Officer 01480 444556</p>