

Purpose: Decision

Date 5 December 2017

Title **HFRA Members' Allowances Scheme**

Report of: The Chairman of Standards and
Governance Committee



**HAMPSHIRE
FIRE AND
RESCUE
AUTHORITY**

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.2 This report sets out the recommendations of the Standards and Governance Committee, regarding its review of the HFRA Members' Allowances Scheme (the Scheme) following the reduction of size of the Authority to 10 Members in June 2017.

2. REVIEW OF THE HFRA MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME

2.1 A Working Group, comprising Members of the Standards and Governance Committee have reviewed the Scheme in the context of the revised governance arrangements. The process of this review is set out in the report considered by the Committee at its meeting of 27 November 2017, which can be found at Annex 1.

2.2 Prior to the meeting of the Committee, all Members of the Authority were consulted on the report. Members' views were taken into account when the Committee considered this matter at its meeting on 27 November 2017 and made its recommendations.

2.3 At its meeting, Standards and Governance Committee received and considered the report at Annex 1. A number of amendments to the recommendations were proposed in order to specify recommended levels of SRA for various roles. The concept of a Scheme to be in place until 2020/21 and an index according to which annual adjustments to the Scheme may be made was supported and it was agreed that further advice be supplied by the Monitoring Officer to the Authority on the most appropriate means of identifying the index in order to avoid ambiguity.

2.4 The Committee unanimously agreed the following recommendations to the Authority regarding the Scheme:

3. RECOMMENDATIONS:

That noting and having regard to the outcomes of the review of Members' Allowances by the Working Group, including the input of IRP members, as set out in the report, the Standards and Governance Committee RECOMMEND to the Full Authority the adoption of an updated Members' Allowances Scheme consisting of:

3.1 A Basic Allowance of £6000 per Member, per annum.

3.2 Special Responsibility Allowances for each role as set out below:

Role	SRA Formula	SRA monetary value (based on £6000 Basic Allowance)
Chairman of the Authority	2 x Basic	£12,000
Vice-Chairman of the Authority	0.5 x Basic	£3000
Standards and Governance Committee Chairman	0.25 x Basic	£1500
Standards and Governance Committee Vice-Chairman	0.125 x Basic	£750
Principal* Opposition Spokesperson	0.5 x Basic	£3000
Other* Opposition Spokesperson	0.125 x Basic	£750

* Principal Opposition Spokesperson being the nominated spokesperson for the largest opposition Group. Should there be multiple opposition Groups of equal size, the nominated spokespersons to share equally the combined allowances for a "Principal" and "Other" spokesperson i.e 0.3125 x Basic each. For this purpose, an opposition Group has no minimum size and may consist of a single Member.

Should a Member be appointed to more than one role for which an SRA is payable, only one (the higher) SRA may be claimed.

3.3 Increases in the rate of Allowances to be indexed according to the national Local Government Pay Award for a period up to the end of the financial year 2020/21.

3.4 Payment of allowances under the Scheme (including appropriate adjustments to take into account payments already received) to be backdated to 13 June 2017.

3.5 That the SRA for the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Standards and Governance Committee be reviewed in the 2018/19 municipal year, when a more accurate assessment of the workload for the Committee is possible.

APPENDICES ATTACHED

Annex 1: Report to the Standards and Governance Committee, 27 November 2017.

Contact:

Kevin Greenhough, on behalf of the Clerk to the Authority,
kevin.greenhough@hants.gov.uk