

# Lancashire Combined Fire Authority

Meeting to be held on 3 October 2022

## Members' Allowance Scheme Indices

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### Executive Summary

The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 permit a Members' Allowance Scheme to make provision for an annual adjustment of allowances by reference to an index which must be reviewed every 4 years. Members are asked to consider whether to continue to use the existing indices.

### Recommendations

The Authority is asked to consider and approve the indices used and to continue with the existing indices for a further four-year period.

## Information

### Members' Allowance Scheme

The Authority has had a Members' Allowance Scheme in place since 2003 in line with the Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003. The Scheme has been amended in line with the Regulations in June 2006, April 2008, April 2012 and June 2016 with the indices reviewed in September 2014, June 2016 and September 2018.

Annual adjustment changes are made in line with the Authority's approved indices as follows:-

- Basic, Special Responsibility and Co-optees' Allowances are index linked on an annual basis in line with the annual Local Government National Pay Award for green book staff at new spinal column point 43 (formerly point 49).
- Subsistence Allowances are reviewed annually (with effect from 1 April in every year) in line with the Consumer Price Index (all items) published in November of the preceding year;
- Travel Allowances mirror the County Council's rates which are revised annually with effect from 1 April in every year in accordance with the maximum allowance for Income Tax purposes, as determined by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC).

To ensure the Authority complies with the regulations to have regard to the recommendations made by the independent remuneration panels of its home authorities s19 (2), the current indices used by home authorities are as follows: -

<b>Allowances</b>	<b>Lancashire County Council</b>	<b>Blackpool Council</b>	<b><i>Blackburn with Darwen Council</i></b>
Basic, Special responsibility and carers / dependents allowance	Annual uprating on 1 April which equates to the average annual % increase in employees' pay under the National Joint Council (NJC) for local government services pay structure.	Annual uprating of the Scheme in line with the National Joint Council (NJC) for Local Government Service pay award.	Annual uprating of the Scheme in line with the National Joint Council (NJC) for Local Government Service pay award.
Overnight accommodation, travel abroad and subsistence allowances	Increased annually from 1 April in line with the Consumer Price Index published in November of the preceding year.		
Motor car, motor cycle, and bicycle travelling allowances	Revised annually with effect from 1 April in every year in accordance with the maximum allowance for Income tax purposes as determined by HM Revenue and Customs.	Uprated at the same time as staff mileage allowances	Revised annually with effect from 1 April in every year in accordance with the maximum allowance for Income tax purposes as determined by HM Revenue and Customs.

The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 permit a Members' Allowance Scheme to make provision for an annual adjustment of allowances by reference to an index which must be reviewed every 4 years. Members are therefore asked to consider whether the indices used remain appropriate, reasonable and transparent.

### **Financial Implications**

The existing arrangements for Members' Allowances have been included in the revenue budget.

### **Business Risk**

None identified

## Environmental Impact

None identified

## Equality & Diversity Implications

The Authority's Members' Allowance Scheme does not provide for the payment of Members of an allowance in respect of such expenses of arranging for the care of their children or dependants. The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 exclude the Authority from including a provision for dependants carers' allowance in its Scheme. Members are, however, entitled to claim this allowance from their constituent authority.

## HR Implications

None identified

## Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact
Report to CFA	28 April 2008	Clerk to the Authority
Report to CFA	16 April 2012	Director of Corporate Services
	8 September 2014	Clerk to the Authority
	20 June 2016	Clerk to the Authority
	17 September 2018	Clerk to the Authority

Reason for inclusion in Part 2, if appropriate: N/A