

Member Travel Allowances 2015/16

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

For further information about this report please contact John Redmond, Chief Fire Officer, on 01743 260201 or Sharon Lloyd, Corporate Support Manager, on 01743 260210.

1 Purpose of Report

This report asks the Fire Authority to revisit the travel allowances due to come into effect in the 2015/16 Scheme for the Payment of Members' Allowances in order to bring them into line with those paid to officers.

2 Recommendations

The Fire Authority is asked to consider and agree revised travel allowances, as set out in section 4 of this report.

3 Background

At its meeting in December 2014, the Fire Authority agreed its Scheme for the Payment of Members' Allowances 2015/16, which will come into effect on 1 April 2015. Included within that Scheme are rates for car, passenger and bicycle allowances.

Since December, officers have been working to streamline the travel allowances payable to employees of the Fire Authority and to align them with the Government's 'approved mileage allowance payments' (AMAP). This will enable the Service to decrease the number of manual payment entries, so saving staff time and reducing any margin for error.

As the Scheme for the Payment of Members' Allowances 2015/16 has not yet come into effect, it seemed opportune to propose that Member travel allowances be brought into line with those for officers.

4 Proposed 2015/16 Travel Allowances

The proposed amendments to travel allowances are set out below. Additions are shown in bold italics and deletions struck through.

Car

Per mile up to, and including 10,000 8,500 miles	45p*
Per mile over 10,000 8,500 miles	25p*
Passenger allowance	5p 3p

* These allowances are linked to the Government's 'approved mileage allowance payments'.

Motorcycle

Mileage allowance **24p**

Bicycle

Mileage allowance **20p** ~~32.5p~~
or **45p**
~~if a car of the appropriate engine capacity would otherwise have been used.~~

It is also proposed that, with effect from 1 April 2015, all travel allowances listed above are linked to the Government's 'approved mileage allowance payments'.

5 Financial Comment

Should the Fire Authority agree to amend travel allowances as proposed in this report, the increase cost would be minimal and could be contained within the pay and prices contingency.

6 Legal Comment

Under the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 the Fire Authority is required to establish annually a scheme to provide for the payment of a basic annual allowance to each of its Members. That scheme may also provide for the payment of special responsibility allowances and travel and subsistence allowances. Arrangements for the publication of the scheme shall be made as soon as reasonably practicable after the making or amendment of the scheme.

7 Initial Impact Assessment

This report proposes minor changes to Member travel allowances. An Initial Impact Assessment is not, therefore, required.

8 Equality Impact Assessment

There are no differential impacts on people arising from this report. An Initial Equality Assessment is not, therefore, required.

9 Appendices

There are no appendices attached to this report.

10 Background Papers

Office of the Deputy Prime Minister

1 May 2003 Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England)
Regulations 2003