

## Approved Mileage Allowance Payments

### Report of the Chief Fire Officer

For further information about this report please contact Paul Raymond, Chief Fire Officer, on 01743 260201 or Sharon Lloyd, Corporate Services Manager, on 01743 260210.

#### 1 Purpose of Report

This report advises of the change made to the Government's 'approved mileage allowance payments' in the recent budget and asks the Fire Authority whether it wishes formally to link the travel allowance payable to Members to such payments.

#### 2 Recommendations

The Fire Authority is asked to:

- a) Note the change made to the Government's 'approved mileage allowance payments' in the recent budget;
- b) Consider and decide whether formally to link the travel allowance payable to Members to such payments; and, if so,
- c) Decide whether to backdate application of the new rate to 1 April 2011.

#### 3 Background

At its meeting in December 2010 the Fire Authority agreed its Scheme for the Payment of Member Allowances 2011/12, including a mileage allowance of 40p for the first 8,500 miles and 25p for mileage above that figure. Although these rates were based on the Government's 'approved mileage allowance payments' at that time, no link to those payments was formally established.

#### 4 March Budget

In its March 2011 budget the Government announced that the rates for 'approved mileage allowance payments' from April 2011 would be 45p per mile for the first 10,000 miles and 25p for mileage above that figure.

In light of this the Fire Authority is asked whether it now wishes to establish a formal link with the Government rate and amend the travel allowance payable to Members to fall into line with 'approved mileage allowance payments'. If it decides to do so, it will also need to consider whether it wishes to backdate application of the new rate to 1 April 2011.

## **5 Financial Implications**

Application of the new mileage rate will cost no more than £700 per annum, which can be met within existing budgets.

## **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, inter alia, the payment of travel allowances.

## **7 Equality Impact Assessment**

Officers have considered the Service's Brigade Order on Equality Impact Assessments (Personnel 5 Part 2) and have determined that there are no discriminatory practices or differential impacts upon specific groups arising from this report. An Initial Equality Impact Assessment has not, therefore, been completed.

## **8 Appendices**

There are no appendices attached to this report.

## **9 Background Papers**

### **Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority**

15 December 2010, Report 9 – The Scheme for Payment of Members' Allowances 2011/12