

REPORT FOR DECISION

DECISION MAKER:	COUNCIL
DATE:	14 DECEMBER 2011
SUBJECT:	ALLOWANCES FOR MEMBERS OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER WASTE DISPOSAL AUTHORITY
REPORT FROM:	THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE
CONTACT OFFICER:	JAYNE HAMMOND ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES
TYPE OF DECISION:	COUNCIL DECISION
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/STATUS:	This paper is within the public domain
SUMMARY:	This report sets out the proposed Allowances recommended by an Independent Review Panel for those Members who serve on the Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority.
OPTIONS & RECOMMENDED OPTION	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To consider and determine the scheme of allowances for members of the Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority, in light of the recommendations detailed in the Executive Summary (GMWDA section) of the report of the Independent Review Panel attached at Appendix A. 2. To determine whether the Council continues to make an exception to its normal rule (of payment of only one Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA)) thus enabling a member to receive the SRA as an ordinary member of the GMWDA and hold, at the same time, a senior post on the Council remunerated by an SRA. 3. Instruct Officers to amend the Council's Members'

	Allowance Scheme accordingly.
IMPLICATIONS:	
Corporate Aims/Policy Framework:	Do the proposals accord with the Policy Framework? Yes
Financial Implications and Risk Considerations:	<p>Allowances for Members serving on the GMWDA are currently paid by Districts and this will continue under the proposed arrangements.</p> <p>In terms of the recommended allowance, this would be a saving of £494.62.on the current payment</p>
Statement by Executive Director of Resources	See above.
Equality/Diversity implications:	Yes
Considered by Monitoring Officer:	<p>Yes</p> <p>Amendments can be made to the Members Allowance Scheme in accordance with the Scheme and the Local Authorities (Members Allowances) Regulations 1991.</p>
Wards Affected:	All
Scrutiny Interest:	N/A

TRACKING/PROCESS

DIRECTOR: Chief Executive

Chief Executive/ Management Board	Cabinet Member/Chair	Ward Members	Partners
Scrutiny Committee	Committee	Council	
		14 December 2011	

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 As part of the governance changes that accompanied the establishment of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) and Transport for Greater Manchester Committee (TfGMC), a joint Independent Review Panel (IRP) was established that presented recommendations on members' allowances for

TfGMC. The same joint IRP was subsequently tasked by AGMA Executive / GMCA to review members' allowances for the GMWDA and the Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Authority, in light of their adoption of new governance structures.

- 1.2 This report presents the recommendations of the joint IRP with regard to members' allowances for GMWDA members for consideration and determination.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At its meeting in January, the AGMA Executive secured the agreement of AGMA and each district council of Greater Manchester to a joint Independent Review Panel (IRP) being established to recommend an appropriate scheme of members' allowances for TfGMC. A report, including the resulting IRP's recommendations, was then taken to a full Council meeting of each GM district and the recommendations adopted were such that each district pays a common set of agreed allowances to TfGMC members.
- 2.2 Agreement was further secured at AGMA to undertake a similar approach to reviewing members' allowances for the Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority (GMWDA) and the Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Authority (GMFRA), given both bodies were undergoing internal reforms in the context of the wider Greater Manchester governance reforms, to rationalise their committee structures.
- 2.3 Therefore a joint panel was established, utilising the same IRP membership as undertook the TfGMC review, and tasked to determine an appropriate scheme of members' allowance for both GMWDA and GMFRA which took into account their new, revised committee structures. The IRP was chaired by Dr. Declan Hall and comprised Bill Berry, Regional Officer, UNISON and Clive Memmott, CEO, GM Chamber of Commerce. The IRP met with senior members and officers of GMWDA, GMFRA and the AGMA Executive on 26 May and was also provided with submissions and background information from both bodies. The IRP has now issued a joint report which has been circulated to AGMA Leaders and members of GMWDA and GMFRA. This report is attached as Appendix A.
- 2.4 Whilst the GMFRA has the power to provide allowances in its own right, it is required to have regard to the recommendations made by an IRP. It is anticipated that the GMFRA will take a report on members' allowances, informed by the IRP's recommendations in due course. By way of contrast, the GMWDA does not have the capacity to set or pay members' allowances. It is therefore for each district to agree allowances for their members who serve on GMWDA, which has led in the past to varying levels of allowance across Greater Manchester for GMWDA members. This is recognised in the recommendations presented by the IRP, which outline a common set of allowances for GMWDA members to be paid by all district authorities.

3. PROPOSED MEMBER ALLOWANCES FOR GMWDA

- 3.1 A key task for the IRP was to provide some consistency of advice to districts with regard to allowances for GMWDA. Currently there is a wide variation in the level of basic allowance paid by districts to members of the GMWDA, ranging between £1,405 to £2,916. Bury currently pays £2,594.62. Given this diverse range plus the current economic context, the panel recommended a basic allowance of £2,100.
- 3.2 The IRP were also tasked to recommend Special Responsibility Allowances (SRAs) for the Chair, Vice Chairs and Deputy Chairs of Committees for GMWDA. Again, the IRP acknowledged that the current SRAs were significantly lower as compared with other joint authorities and that the level of responsibility undertaken by the Chair in particular was substantial. However, given the current economic context, the IRP concluded that as an 'interim position' a responsibility allowance of £12,000 should be paid to the Chair. An SRA for Vice Chair's of £5,400 and £2,600 for Deputy Chairs of Committee was identified.
- 3.3 Further details of the IRP recommendations can be found in the attached report (at Appendix A) which also outlines the underlying rationale.
- 3.4 The GMWDA scheme of allowances, if adopted by all Greater Manchester district councils as recommended by the IRP, would see an increase in overall costs of around £10,000. If the GMFRA adopts the IRP's recommendations, their overall costs will reduce by approximately £10,000.
- 3.5 If the Council approves the recommendations of the IRP, the Council's Members' Allowance scheme will be amended accordingly, allowing payments to be made to those Council members serving on the new GMWDA. The IRP recommends that the new allowances be operable from the 2011 annual meeting, which will require backdating to 18 May 2011.
- 3.6 The IRP also recommend that constituent councils which operate a 1 SRA rule should make an exception to this rule for at least some GMWDA members, thus enabling a member to serve on GMWDA and hold a remunerated post at their district council (see Sections 70 and 71). Currently, the Bury Scheme states that "a councillor who is a member of the GMWDA may receive two SRA's under this scheme", which is consistent with the IRP recommendation. However, Members are asked to consider if they would wish to adhere to this in cases where a member was paid an SRA for a senior position with the GMWDA, or should the "one SRA only" rule then apply.
- 3.7 The IRP also recommend that in the longer term, a Greater Manchester approach to determining other allowances, such as travel and subsistence is developed. With regard to travel and in the short term, the IRP recommends that GMWDA members nominated by the District Councils be entitled to claim travel allowances when undertaking approved duties; and this will need to be reflected in the Council's Members' Allowance scheme. However, the IRP further recommends that when undertaking approved duties for GMWDA,

members should be able to claim HMRC mileage rates (see Paragraph 120 - 122). This is a departure from current Council's practice, which following the last Council meeting, applies only to journeys taken for approved duties out of the Borough. The mileage rates under this proposal would be higher than those currently paid under Bury's Members' Allowances Scheme.

- 3.8 Similar reports are to be presented to the other Greater Manchester district authorities, such that if the IRP recommendations are approved, a coherent and consistent scheme of allowances for all members serving on the GMWDA will be introduced.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 A full set of recommendations are set out on the front page of this report.
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List of Background Papers:-

None. Joint Review of Members Allowances for the Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority.

Background documents (available for public inspection):

The following documents disclose important facts on which the report is based and have been relied upon in preparing the report. Copies of the background documents are available up to 4 years after the date of the meeting. If you would like a copy please contact one of the contact officers above.

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