

# WEST YORKSHIRE INTEGRATED TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

DATE: 25 JUNE 2010

AGENDA ITEM NO: **13**

**SUBJECT: MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES AND EXPENSES**

## Report of the Clerk and Chief Financial Officer

### 1. MATTER FOR CONSIDERATION

- 1.1 To consider the report of Dr Declan Hall who has been reviewing the Authority's Members Allowances Scheme in light of the new governance arrangements.

### 2. INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Local Transport Act 2008 urges Metropolitan District Councils and Integrated Transport Authorities to take advantage of the provisions within the Act to strengthen governance arrangements. The purpose is to introduce more strategic and efficient management of transport across the Metropolitan area and potentially a wider city region area.
- 2.2 The DfT were keen to see stronger governance arrangements and have made it clear that the stronger the governance arrangements, the more successful the ITA and districts can be in terms of innovative approaches to funding and strategic delivery.
- 2.3 In light of the above, the City Region commissioned Atkins consultants to undertake a Governance Review across West Yorkshire and the wider city region in order to identify the most appropriate Governance arrangements. The Atkins review and subsequent Audit Commission work suggested that there needed to be better connectivity and engagement between the ITA and District Councils to drive forward a common approach to transport delivery across West Yorkshire and also to ensure that the ITA had a better understanding of district objectives when shaping and delivering transport strategy.
- 2.4 Arising from the Atkins Review, the Authority took steps to replace the existing committee structure with an 8 member Executive Board, a Scrutiny function and District Liaison Committees for each of the five districts.
- 2.5 In order to facilitate the new governance arrangements, the Authority commissioned Dr Declan Hall, an expert in this field who had conducted the Authority's first allowances review back in 2003, to undertake a further review of the current allowances scheme.

- 2.6 Dr Hall's report at **Appendix 1** sets out the background to the review; the relevant legislation; information received and interviews carried out; comparative work carried out on the allowances, recommendations and the reasoning behind these recommendations.
- 2.7 Dr Hall presented his report to the meeting of the Standards Committee on 26 May 2010. Members of the Standards Committee commented that they were satisfied that all appropriate information and facts had been taken into account by Dr Hall and that the resultant report correctly presented a reasoned independent review of the allowances available to members of the Authority. The Committee resolved that the scheme be referred to the Annual General Meeting with a recommendation that it be approved and implemented with immediate effect.

A copy of the new scheme is attached at **Appendix 2**.

### **3. FINANCIAL AND EC PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 Although there are major changes to the overall committee structure of the Authority, the recommendations of the review result in a minor decrease in total spend on some SRAs and the number of SRAs payable. There will be an increase in the Basic allowance, but overall spend on Members Allowances remains within the current budget.

This excludes any cost associated with changes to rates of Travelling Allowances or other expenses.

### **4. STAFFING IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 None specifically arising from this report.

### **5. EQUAL OPPORTUNITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 None specifically arising from this report.

### **6. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1 That the attached Members Allowances Scheme be approved and implemented with immediate effect.
- 6.2 That the scheme be amended from 1 April 2010 for any revised travelling and expenses rates subsequently issued by the Executive for their staff.

**Clerk and Chief Financial Officer  
West Yorkshire Integrated Transport Authority**