

## FEES AND CHARGES 2014/15

### SUMMARY

1. In accordance with the Fire Services Acts, Fire Authorities have the discretion to charge for special services performed (where there is no immediate threat of fire) and for services relating to training, fire safety and administration. The total income for the Fire Authority generated through these sources was circa £67k in 2012/13.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

2. That the revised charges shown in the Appendices A and B be approved with effect from 1 April 2014.

### SPECIAL SERVICES AND OTHER CHARGES

3. The revised charges proposed at Appendix A reflect the following:-
  - Staff related costs – charges are normally uplifted in line with the firefighters' pay award. Given that the firefighters' pay award for 2013 was 1%, it is proposed that the charge is increased by 1%;
  - Non staff related costs – uplifted in line with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) (as at September 2013 2.7%).
4. Further income will also be generated during 2014/15, particularly in relation to the provision of professional services for the Control of Major Hazards (COMAH) sites. These charges have been reviewed by the Service's Civil Protection Manager and the revised rates are shown in Appendix A. The increase is proposed to bring the charges into line with those applied by other partner organisations for similar COMAH related activities.

### PENSION SHARING ON DIVORCE

5. Fire Service Circular 17/2001 advised Fire Authorities on the charges they may levy when dealing with cases of pension sharing involving serving members of the Firefighters' Pension Scheme or pensioners. The charges for 2014/15 will be increased in line with estimated local government pay award for 2013 of 1%. These charges are shown at Appendix B.

### STRATEGIC PLAN COMPATIBILITY

6. No direct issues arising.

### FINANCIAL/RESOURCE/VALUE FOR MONEY/ IMPLICATIONS

7. The annual inflationary uplift of fees and charges ensures that the Fire Authority continues to recover reasonable costs for chargeable services.

## LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8. The Authority has discretion to charge for certain services.

## EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENTS/HR IMPLICATIONS

9. No direct issues arising from this report.

## CORPORATE RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

10. No direct issues arising but the inflationary uplift of fees and charges is good practice.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

11. No direct issues arising

## COMMUNICATION ACTIONS ARISING

12. No direct issues arising.

## DETAILS OF CONSULTATION

13. No direct issues arising.

## BACKGROUND PAPERS AVAILABLE FOR ACCESS

14. 2013/14 NJC Firefighter and Local Government pay rates.

## RECOMMENDATIONS RESTATED

15. That the revised charges shown in the Appendices A and B be approved with effect from 1 April 2014.

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