

Humberside Fire Authority
15 February 2016

Report by the
Executive Director Service Support/
S.151 Officer

FEES AND CHARGES 2016/17

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 £89k in 2014/15.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. That the revised charges shown in the Appendices A and B be approved with effect from 1 April 2016.

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 2014/15 was 1%, it is proposed that the charge is increased by 1%;
 - Non staff related costs – Not uplifted as the Consumer Price Index (CPI) at September 2015 was minus 0.1%.
4. A recent report considered by the GAS Committee and produced by our Internal Auditors MIAA, recommended that the Authority considers a more comprehensive review of fees and charges made by the Service. Analysis to support the actions flowing from the recommendation will be brought to a Member Day for consideration during 2016. Any outcomes from this work will then feed into the Service's charging policy for 2017/18.

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 2016/17 will be increased in line with estimated local government pay award for 2016/17 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. 2015/16 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 2016.

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KW/MR/SJ
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