

FEES AND CHARGES 2018/19

SUMMARY

1. In accordance with relevant Fire Service 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.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. That the revised charges shown in the Appendices A and B be approved with effect from 1 April 2018.

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 2017 was 1% (with negotiations continuing), it is proposed that the charge is increased by 1% (and by any further agreed increase in firefighters' pay).
 - Non staff related costs – Charges uplifted in line with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) at September 2017 which was 3%.

PENSION SHARING ON DIVORCE

4. 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 2018/19 will be increased in line with the local government pay award for 2017/18 of 1%. These charges are shown at Appendix B.

CONSULTATION

5. A consultation on charging for events planning and attendance was carried out during February and March 2017. Further consultation has been carried out as part of the revised Strategic Plan. The outcome of these consultations will be considered.

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. 2017/18 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 2018.

K WILSON

Officer Contact: Kevin Wilson ☎ 01482 567183
Executive Director Service Support & S.151 Officer

Humberside Fire & Rescue Service Headquarters
Summergroves Way
Kingston upon Hull

KW/MR/SJ
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