

## Review of Members' Expenses and Allowances

### Officers' Recommendation

**That the Authority reviews and determines the allowances and expenses paid to Authority Members for different responsibilities undertaken by the Members**

### Purpose

The Officers' paper provides the opportunity for Authority Members to review allowances paid to the Chair, Vice Chair and the allowances paid to all Members who perform different tasks on behalf of the Authority.

### Background

At the AGM, held on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2021, an Authority Member requested that to recognise increased workload for the Chair and Vice Chair of the Authority the allowances for these positions be reviewed by the Authority. Increased workload includes the Chair taking responsibility and devoting considerable amounts of time relating to on-going correspondence and engagement with Defra regarding D&S IFCA's funding.

The Vice Chair has been instrumental in creating and is the Chair of D&S IFCA's Governance Working Group which is working with Officers to deliver a wide range of associated workstreams and improve the governance of the organisation.

### Authorisation for Expenses and Allowances

Section 15 of The Devon and Severn Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Order 2010) sets out;

- (1) The Authority may reimburse the expenses of its members incurred in connection with attending a meeting of the Authority or otherwise carrying out the functions of the Authority.
- (2) The Authority may pay to its members such allowances as it may determine.
- (3) In particular, the Authority may pay to a general member who is not an employee of the MMO an allowance in respect of a loss of earnings arising from that member's attendance at a meeting of the Authority.
- (4) The Authority must determine, before the beginning of each financial year, the circumstances in which a member is eligible under this article for the reimbursement of expenses incurred in that year or the receipt of an allowance in respect of that year.

### Current Situation

The expenses for Members were last reviewed at the Authority's AGM in June 2019 (Agenda Item 12a).

- Members agreed to pay the Chair of the Authority an annual salary of **£4,000**.
- Members agreed to pay the Vice Chairs of the Authority and the Chair of the Byelaw Sub-Committee **£400** per year, paid quarterly in arrears.
- General Members can claim up to **£100** for each Authority meeting that they attend.

The attendance allowance (for Authority/Sub-Committee meetings) was to reflect that some members would lose earnings as a result of missing a day at work. In addition, General Members can claim any travel costs incurred in order to attend the meetings. Mileage allowance is in line with Devon CC rates.

### **Additional Considerations**

Officers recognise that considerable reliance is placed on all Members in order to try to meet the duties of the Authority. There are occasions where Members may be requested to attend other meetings associated with Authority business.

In June 2019 Members agreed that the Authority extend travel expenses and subsistence, but not attendance allowance, to General Members who by request from the Authority attend additional meetings on their authority.

### **Background Papers:**

- [The Devon and Severn Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Order \(2010\)](#)
- [Authority Meeting - Agenda Item 12a \(June 2019\)](#)