



COUNCIL EXECUTIVE

SCHEME OF ELECTED MEMBERS REMUNERATION, ALLOWANCES & REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES

REPORT BY HEAD OF CORPORATE SERVICES

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide information on the recommendations of the Scottish Local Authority Remuneration Committee's 2010 review on the remuneration levels paid to all councillors.

To allow the adoption of a Scheme of Elected Members Remuneration, Allowances and Reimbursement of Expenses for 2011/12.

B. RECOMMENDATION

1. The Council Executive is asked to note the recommendations of the Scottish Local Authority Remuneration Committee's 2010 review.
2. The Council Executive is asked to adopt the revised Scheme of Elected Members Remuneration, Allowances and Reimbursement of Expenses for 2011/12.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I Council Values	Being honest, open and accountable
II Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	The council's Code of Corporate Governance requires the Scheme to be reviewed annually by Committee.
III Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	Financial implications will be resourced from within the 2011/12 Revenue Budget.
IV Consultations	In accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations the Head of Finance and Estates has been consulted.

D. TERMS OF REPORT

D.1 Background

The Council's Code of Corporate Governance requires the Scheme of Elected Members Remuneration, Allowances and Reimbursement of Expenses (the Scheme) to be reviewed annually by Committee.

The Scheme is based on the Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004 (Remuneration) Regulations 2007 and Amendment Regulations 2008, and the Local Government (Allowances and Expenses) (Scotland) Regulations 2007 and Amendment Regulations 2010.

The Scottish Local Authorities Remuneration Committee (SLARC) was established under the provisions of the Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004 to assist the Scottish Government in bringing forward regulations and guidance on councillor salaries, allowances and expenses.

D.2 2010 SLARC Review

The Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Sustainable Growth set SLARC a remit in 2010 to review the remuneration levels paid to all councillors and to consider whether present levels of remuneration, including those paid to senior members of Joint Boards and Community Justice Authorities, are appropriate.

The review findings were presented to the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Sustainable Growth on 10 March 2011, and include 31 recommendations for change. The full set of recommendations and how they compare with the current arrangements are summarised in Appendix 1.

D.3 SLARC Review Implementation

The recommendations propose change in the Banding of councils along with significant increases in the level of remuneration paid to councillors. If implemented in full, the total additional costs to councils across Scotland are estimated £5.5m, an increase of 24% on the current remuneration budget. In West Lothian it would result in an annual increase of £143,353.

The impact of the recommendations on councillors salaries and the Civic Head allowance in West Lothian Council are detailed below:

	Current	Proposed	Difference
	£	£	£
Council Leader	32,470	44,137	11,667
Senior Councillor	24,353	33,103	8,750
Councillor	16,234	18,916	2,682
Civic Head Allowance	3,000	2,000 -	1,000

If accepted, in part or whole, the recommendations will require a change to existing Regulations prior to implementation. Furthermore, Recommendation 4 suggests that these recommendations should be considered alongside the recommendations of the Commission on the Future Delivery of Public Services which is due to report in June 2011.

D.4 Scheme of Elected Members Remuneration, Allowances & Reimbursement 2011/12

In the absence of a formal response from the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Sustainable Growth to the review findings, the terms of the Scheme, as set out in Appendix 2, will remain unchanged from the current year. Any amendments approved by Parliament during the course of the year will be implemented as instructed by the Scottish Government and applied retrospectively as required.

E. CONCLUSION

The Council is required to adopt a Scheme of Elected Members Remuneration, Allowances and Reimbursement of Expenses for the incoming year. In the absence of any amendments the terms of the Scheme remain unchanged from the current year.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

The Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004 (Remuneration) Regulations 2007 and Amendment Regulations 2008, and the Local Government (Allowances and Expenses) (Scotland) Regulations 2007 and Amendment Regulations 2010.

Appendices/Attachments: 2

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