

28. SCHEME OF ELECTED MEMBERS REMUNERATION, ALLOWANCES AND REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES

The Council Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Corporate Services and which provided information on the recommendations of the Scottish Local Authority Remuneration Committee's 2010 review on the remuneration levels paid to all councillors.

The Head of Corporate Services explained that 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, were appropriate.

The review findings were presented to the Cabinet Secretary on 10th March 2011 and included 31 recommendations for change, details of which were summarised in Appendix 1 to the report.

If accepted in part or whole the recommendations would require a change to existing regulations prior to implementation. Furthermore recommendation 4 suggested that the recommendations should be considered alongside the recommendations of the Commission on the Future Delivery of Public Services, which was due to report in June 2011.

The report further advised that in the absence of a formal response from the Cabinet Secretary to the review findings, the terms of the Scheme, as set out in Appendix 2 of the report, would remain unchanged from the current year.

The Head of Corporate Services concluded that the council was required to adopt a Scheme of Elected Members Remuneration, Allowances and Reimbursement of Expenses for the incoming year and that in the absence of any amendments the terms of the scheme remained unchanged from the current year.

It was recommended that the Council Executive :-

1. Note the recommendations of the Scottish Local Authority Remuneration Committee's 2010 review; and
2. Adopt the revised Scheme of Elected Members Remuneration, Allowances and Reimbursement of Expenses for 2011/2012.

Decision

1. Agreed to adopt the revised Scheme of Elected Members, Remuneration, Allowances and Reimbursement of Expenses for 2011/2012; and
2. Agreed that the SLARC recommendations, at points 17, 21 and 22

as detailed in the appendix to the report be subject to further discussion and scrutiny at a future meeting of the Partnership and Resource Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel.