



West Lothian
Council

COUNCIL EXECUTIVE

SCHEME OF ELECTED MEMBERS REMUNERATION, ALLOWANCES AND REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES

REPORT BY HEAD OF CORPORATE SERVICES

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To allow the adoption of a Scheme of Elected Members Remuneration, Allowances and Reimbursement of Expenses for 2012/13.

B. RECOMMENDATION

The Council Executive is asked to adopt the revised Scheme of Elected Members Remuneration, Allowances and Reimbursement of Expenses for 2012/13.

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 Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None
IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators	None
V Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	None
VI Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	Elected Members remuneration, allowances and expenses will be resourced from within the 2012/13 Revenue Budget.
VII Consideration at PDSP	None
VIII Other 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 and 2011.

D.2 2010 SLARC REVIEW

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.

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.

D.3 SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO SLARC 2010 REPORT

The review findings were presented to the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Sustainable Growth in March 2011 and included 31 recommendations for change. In December 2011 the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Sustainable Growth advised that on the basis of affordability that he had decided not to implement any further recommendations of the 2010 Review report at this time, but that he would look again at the recommendations next year with regard to 2013/14 and what is affordable and sustainable. The only recommendation implemented was Recommendation 29 which prohibited additional payments to councillors serving on arms length external organisations.

D.4 2012/13 SLARC REVIEW REMIT

In December 2011 the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Sustainable Growth also advised that he would look again at the recommendations next year with regard to 2013-14 and what is affordable and sustainable. He also advised that he had decided that councillors pay will remain frozen in 2012-13 in line with other areas of the public sector. In view of this he has chosen not to set formal remit for the committee in 2012/13.

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 will remain unchanged for 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.

- Scottish Government's Response to SLARC's 2010 Report.

Appendices/Attachments: Scheme of Elected Members Remuneration, Allowances and Reimbursement of Expenses 2012/13.

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