

SCHEME OF REMUNERATION FOR COUNCILLORS

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report advises members that adjustments have been made to remuneration arrangements for Councillors in accordance with the Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004 (Remuneration) Amendment Regulations 2015 which come into force on 1st April 2015.

This affects the salary level of the Provost, Leader and the basic salary of Councillors and that the adjustments relate to the financial year 2015-16 . The intention is for arrears to be paid in May 2015.

As the Council has discretion on the remuneration for Senior Councillor roles the report invites Council to consider whether to apply the increases on a similar basis to Elected Member Policy Leads on the basis of parity and in recognition of the additional responsibilities they hold within their portfolio. This recommendation can be accommodated within existing budgetary provision for Elected Members.

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2.0 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The Council has been notified by Cosla that the Scottish Government has introduced legislation to increase the basic salary for Councillors, and for the Leader and Provost, all of which are determined centrally.
- 2.2 The rise for 2015/16 is effective from 1st April 2015 and is 1%.
- 2.3 The Council should note that these increases will be applied and invites Council to consider whether to apply the same increases to Elected Member Policy Leads on the same basis.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To note the increased payments as detailed in the report and to note that the arrears due will be paid in the May pay run.
- 3.2 To agree to increase the remuneration of Policy Leads/ Lead Councillors by 1% for 2015/16 and that those payments are backdated to be consistent with national decisions on payments determined by statutory instrument.

4.0 DETAIL

- 4.1 Remuneration arrangements for the Council Leader, Civic Head and basic salary for Councillors are governed by Scottish Government regulations, which originally came into force on 3 May 2007 and which have been updated several times since then. These regulations cover Members Allowances, reimbursement of expenses and pensions rights. The regulations allow for a standardised procedure across all Scottish local authorities for the payment of Councillors' allowances and expenses.
- 4.2 The Scottish Parliament recently passed legislation amending the Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004 (remuneration) regulations 2007. This confirms that Councillors have been awarded a 1% pay rise for 2015/16 to have effect from the 1st of April of this year. The arrears would be paid in the May pay run.
- 4.3 The Council has discretion in respect of the remuneration for Senior Councillors and it is logical to adopt the same percentage increase and on the same basis as those set nationally.

5.0 CONCLUSION

- 5.1** Remuneration arrangements for the Council Leader, Civic Head and basic salary for Councillors are governed by Scottish Government regulations. It should be noted that this is not a matter for discretion and the award of 1% uplift will be applied retrospectively with effect from 1st April 2015 . The Council however has discretion with regards to Senior Councillor awards and the recommendation is that there should be parity in the uplift and that this should be applied on the same basis to the remuneration for Council Policy Leads, in recognition of the additional responsibilities they hold within their portfolio.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Policy - None

6.2 Financial – The uplift can be accommodated within existing Elected Member budget provision.

6.3 Legal - None

6.4 HR - None

6.5 Equalities - None

6.6 Risk - None

6.7 Customer Service - None

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