WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by Executive Director of Corporate Services

Corporate and Efficient Governance Committee – 22 June 2011

Subject : Scottish Local Authorities Remuneration Committee – 2010 Review of Remuneration for Local Authority Councillors

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Committee on the recommendations made by the Scottish Local Authorities Remuneration Committee (SLARC) in respect of Councillors' Remuneration.

2. Background

2.1 SLARC is set up under the Local Governance (Scotland) Act 1994 with a primary purpose to advise on Councillors remuneration. Each year it produces a report, the latest report being published in March 2011. In due course the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Sustainable Growth will consider the recommendations of the report and decide whether they are to be adopted by the Scottish Government. Copies of the SLARC report have been placed in Members' rooms.

2.2 The 2011 report makes 32 recommendations, which are contained in Appendix 1 and the key recommendations affecting the Council are as follows:-

2.3 That Members salaries should be increased in line with the 75% of the December 2010 median Scottish employee full time salary.

2.4 The salary for the Leader of the Council should be based on an uplift on the December 2010 median Scottish employee full time salary with an adjustment for the size of the authority.

2.5 The salaries for Civic Head and Senior Councillors should continue to maintain the link at a maximum of 75% of the Leader's salary.

2.6 There should be no change to the maximum number of senior councillors which can be appointed.

2.7 The Scottish Government should remove the provision which enables local government employees up to 208 hours paid time off a year to undertake duties as a councillor.

2.8 The report recommends that the new proposals are effective from 1 April 2012.

3. Main Issues

3.1 The following recommendations have been made in respect of Councillor remuneration levels within West Dunbartonshire:

	Current Remuneration	Proposed Remuneration
Leader of the Council	£32,470	£44,137
Civic Head	£24,353	£33,103
Senior Councillor *	£24,353	£33,103
Basic Councillor	£16,234	£18,916

* West Dunbartonshire is allowed to appoint a maximum of 10 senior councillors. Although the current maximum salary for a Senior Councillor in West Dunbartonshire Council is £24,353 per annum, the total sum the Council is permitted to pay out to all Senior Councillors is capped at £202,940 per annum. As such we currently pay each Senior Councillor £20,294 per annum. The proposed cap for total payments to Senior Councillors under the new recommendations would be £260,100 per annum and as such if the Council applied the same principle of paying each Senior Councillor 1/10th of the capped limit, each Senior Councillor would receive £26,010 per annum rather than the £33,103 individual maximum proposed.

3.2 Funding the above recommendations in full would require a budget of £526,500. The current budget is £416,500.

3.3 In due course, the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Sustainable Growth will announce his decision regarding the SLARC recommendations.

4. People Implications

4.1 There are no people implications at this point.

5. Financial implications

5.1 Funding the SLARC recommendations in full would require a budget of £526,500. The current budget is £416,500.

6 Risk Analysis

6.1 No further risk analysis was required.

7. Equalities, Health & Human Rights Impact Assessment (EIA)

7.1 No significant issues were identified in a screening for potential equality impact of this report

8. Conclusions and Recommendations

8.1 SLARC is set up under the Local Governance (Scotland) Act 1994 with a primary purpose to advise on Councillors remuneration. The report published in March 2011 makes recommendations as to the remuneration levels for councillors in West Dunbartonshire.

8.2 If implemented in full from April 2012, the proposals would require additional budgetary provision of £110,000.

8.3 Members are requested to note the SLARC recommendations regarding the review of remuneration levels for local authority councillors.

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Date: 27 May 2011

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Appendix: None

Background Papers: Scottish Local Authorities Remuneration Committee – 2010 Review of Remuneration for Local Authority Councillors

Wards Affected: All wards