

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Chief Executive

Council : 27 June 2007

Subject: Scheme of Members' Allowances

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Members on the approved Scheme of Members' Allowances.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004 (Remuneration) Regulations 2007 and (Allowances and Expenses) Regulations 2007 came into force as at 2 May 2007. The regulations make provision for the payment of allowances by local authorities to their Members from 3 May 2007.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1 In April 2007, the Scottish Executive issued guidance in respect of Councillors' remuneration. The Council adopted this scheme at the meeting of the Council on 16 May 2007.
- 3.2 The Council is entitled to appoint one Leader of the Council, one Civic Head (Provost) plus a maximum of ten other Senior Councillors. The Council has a budget of £193,600 for the ten Senior Councillors and the maximum allowance payable to any Senior Councillor is 75% of the Leader's allowance i.e. £23,179. The Scottish Executive has determined the number of senior posts and associated budgetary provision. The Council does not have the authority to exceed these limits.
- 3.3 At the meeting of the Council on 16 May 2007, appointments were made in respect of Leader of the Council, Provost and Leader of the Opposition. It was further resolved that the Leader of the Opposition post would attract a salary of £19,360 per annum.
- 3.4 The Council is, therefore, entitled to nominate a maximum of nine further posts as Senior Councillor. The balance of budget remaining for these appointments is £174,240.
- 3.5 The Council has appointed a Depute Leader and Depute Provost although at present they have not been classified as Senior Councillor posts for the purposes of remuneration. If Council allocates a Senior Councillor allowance to these posts, they will count toward the remaining nine senior posts available and the costs will come from the overall budget for Senior Councillors.

- 3.6** It is for the Council to determine which positions are deemed to be a Senior Councillor. The Council will also decide the level of remuneration to be paid to each Senior Councillor as long as no Councillor receives more than £23,179 per annum and the total sum paid out to the remaining Senior Councillors does not exceed £174,240.
- 3.7** Any appointments made in respect of Convenerships by joint boards do not count against the Council's allocation of Senior Councillor posts.
- 3.8** All Councillors who do not hold the position of Leader, Civic Head or Senior Councillor will receive a basic remuneration of £15,452 per annum. This figure is set by the regulations and the Council is not able to vary this remuneration level.

4. Personnel Issues

- 4.1** There are no personnel issues.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1** The costs associated with the new remuneration scheme are provided for within the Revenue Estimates for 2007/08.

6. Risk Analysis

- 6.1** The Council cannot exceed the limits set out in the regulations in respect of the number of posts and the allowances payable.

7. Conclusions

- 7.1** The Council has appointed a Leader of the Council and a Civic Head of the Council. The post of Leader of the Opposition has also been nominated as a Senior Councillor.
- 7.2** The Council can appoint a maximum of nine further Senior Councillors within a budget of £174,240. The number of Senior Councillor posts and budget available is determined by the Scottish Executive.

8. Recommendations

- 8.1 Council is asked to consider any further appointments as Senior Councillor.**

David McMillan
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Appendix

None

Background Papers:

**Council 16 May 2007 : Scheme of Members' Allowances
The Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004 (Remuneration)
Regulations 2007**

Wards Affected:

All Wards