

**FALKIRK COUNCIL**

**Subject: THE LOCAL GOVERNANCE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2004  
(REMUNERATION AND SEVERANCE) AMENDMENT  
REGULATIONS 2015**  
**Meeting: FALKIRK COUNCIL**  
**Date: 31 MARCH 2015**  
**Author: CHIEF GOVERNANCE OFFICER**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to bring to the attention of Council changes to the remuneration levels for members brought about by the Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004 (Remuneration and Severance Payments) Amendment Regulations 2015 and to seek a decision on those payments where the level lies within the discretion of Council, namely payments to the civic head and to senior councillors.

**2. REMUNERATION**

- 2.1 As members know, their remuneration levels were increased by 1% in each of the financial years 2013/14 and 2014/15 following a four year period in which those payments had remained static. The new Regulations come into force on 1 April 2015 and deal with payments from that date.

**Councillors and Council Leader**

- 2.2 The Regulations provide for a 1% increase in the prescribed remuneration levels applicable to councillors and to the Council Leader. This means that, with effect from 1 April 2015, the basic remuneration to councillors will increase by £166 to £16,726p.a. while remuneration to the Council Leader will increase by £331 to £33,454p.a.

**Civic Head**

- 2.3 The level of remuneration to the Council's civic head (in our case, the Provost) and senior councillors lies within the discretion of Council within certain parameters. The current maximum payment available for the civic head role is £24,842p.a. increasing to £25,090p.a. from 1 April. However, Council agreed a payment of £23,179p.a. in 2007 and has not applied any increase since then. A 1% increase in the amount currently paid would increase that payment by £231 to £23,410.

**Senior Councillors**

- 2.4 For senior councillors, the decision on remuneration levels rests with Council provided no councillor is paid more than 75% of the Leader's salary and provided also that the total amount to be paid to all senior councillors does not exceed a set figure calculated by reference to a formula set out in the Regulations.

Falkirk Council is authorised to appoint up to 14 senior councillors. The current maximum amount available for senior councillors is £289,815 rising to £292,715 on 1 April.

- 2.5 At its meeting on 24 April 2013, Council determined its current remuneration framework for senior councillors, appointing 13 at two payment levels, currently £22,242 and £18,646 as follows:

Senior Councillor (Level 1)	Senior Councillor (Level 2)
£22,242p.a.	£18,646p.a.
Depute Provost	Leader of the main Opposition Group
Economic Development Portfolio Holder	Convener of the Joint Consultative Committee
Education Portfolio Holder	
Environment Portfolio Holder	
Housing Portfolio Holder	
Culture, Leisure & Tourism Portfolio Holder	
Public Protection Portfolio Holder	
Resources Portfolio Holder	
Convener of the Planning Committee	
Convener of the Appeals Committee	
Depute Leader	

- 2.6 While it is for Council to determine the level of remuneration for senior councillors within the limit set out above, if the same 1% increase is applied to these payments as to the others referred to in this report (as was the case in the last two financial years), the payments would increase respectively by £222 and £186 to £22,464p.a. and £18,832p.a.
- 2.7 Payments at these levels would amount to £279,155 in the year to 31 March 2016 which is well within the allowable total.
- 2.8 Allowance has been made for the increases referred to in this report in the revenue budget agreed in February.

### **Joint Boards**

- 2.9 For information, Council is advised that the Regulations also provide for increases in the level of remuneration paid to conveners and vice conveners of joint boards. In practice, this now only applies, in our area, to the Valuation Board. Payment to the convener will increase from £20,702 to £20,909 from 1 April while for vice conveners the current payment of £19,667 will increase to £19,864.

### **3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **3.1 It is recommended that Council:**

- (i) notes the terms of the Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004 (Remuneration and Severance) Amendment Regulations 2015:**
- (ii) notes the increase in the level of remuneration that will be paid to councillors and to the Council leader with effect from 1 April 2015 in accordance with the Regulations; and**
- (iii) determines the level of remuneration to be paid to the civic head and to the senior councillors;**

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Chief Governance Officer

Date: 18 March 2015

Contact officer: Rose Mary Glackin, ext.5076

### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None