



**AGENDA ITEM  
10**

**THE LOCAL  
GOVERNANCE  
(SCOTLAND) ACT 2004  
(REMUNERATION)  
AMENDMENT  
REGULATIONS 2016**

**FALKIRK COUNCIL**

**Subject: THE LOCAL GOVERNANCE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2004  
(REMUNERATION) AMENDMENT REGULATIONS 2016**  
**Meeting: FALKIRK COUNCIL**  
**Date: 9 MARCH 2016**  
**Author: DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE & HOUSING SERVICES**

**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) Amendment Regulations 2016 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 The Regulations completed their passage through the Scottish Parliament on 3 March 2016 and come in to force on 1 April 2016.

**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 2016, the basic remuneration to councillors will increase by £167 to £16,893p.a. while remuneration to the Council Leader will increase by £335 to £33,789p.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 £25,090p.a. increasing to £25,341p.a. from 1 April. However, Council agreed a payment of £23,179p.a. in 2007 and applied no further increases until the pay award last year when it was increased by 1% to £23,410. Applying a further 1% to that figure would increase the payment to £23,644p.a.

**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 Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004 (Remuneration) Regulations 2007.

Falkirk Council is authorised to appoint up to 14 senior councillors. The current maximum amount available for senior councillors is £292,715 rising to £295,643 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 £22,464 and £18,832 as follows:

Senior Councillor (Level 1)	Senior Councillor (Level 2)
£22,464p.a.	£18,832p.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 three financial years), the payments would increase respectively by £225 and £188 to £22,689p.a. and £19,020p.a.
- 2.7 Payments at these levels would amount to £287,619 in the year to 31 March 2017 which is 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 and CJA**

- 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 £20,909 to £21,118 from 1 April while for vice conveners the current payment of £19,884 will increase to £20,063. These payment levels are also replicated in the Community Justice Authority in accordance with the Management of Offenders etc. (Scotland) Act 2005 (Members' Remuneration and Supplementary Provisions) Order 2008.

### **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 2016:**
- (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 2016 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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**DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE & HOUSING SERVICES**  
Date: 4 March 2016  
Ref: AAA090316 – The Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004  
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#### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None