

AGENDA ITEM

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: LOCAL GOVERNANCE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2004 – REMUNERATION
Meeting: FALKIRK COUNCIL
Date: 18 MAY 2007
Author: ACTING DIRECTOR OF LAW & ADMINISTRATION SERVICES

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to outline the statutory remuneration regime as it relates to members of local authorities and to invite members to determine a remuneration framework for Falkirk Council.
- 1.2 Members may recollect my report to Policy and Resources Committee on 16 January, 2007, summarising the terms of two draft Statutory Instruments (SIs) issued for consultation under the Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004, namely,
- The Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004 (Remuneration) Regulations 2007, and
 - The Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004 (Allowances and Expenses) Regulations 2007.

For ease of reference, a copy of that report is attached as an appendix hereto.

- 1.3 Following the consultation period, some amendments were made to the draft SIs, particularly with regard to remuneration for conveners and vice conveners of Joint Boards with the finalised SIs being made in March and brought into force on 2 May 2007.
- 1.4 As a matter of interest, members may wish to note that the proposal in the draft remuneration SI to reduce a member's salary following suspension by the Standards Commission does not appear in the final SI.
- 1.5 A further SI has been brought into force (The Local Government Pensions etc. (Councillors and Visit Scotland (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2007) which gives members, for the first time, the right to join the local government pension scheme. Advice on the pension scheme was included with the information pack issued to all members and further advice is available to any member from the Pensions Section situated within Finance Services.

2. THE LOCAL GOVERNANCE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2004 (REMUNERATION) REGULATIONS 2007

- 2.1 The remuneration Regulations provide for different levels of payment to councillors:-
- (a) £15,452 p.a. basic payment for each councillor.
 - (b) £30,905 p.a. for the leader of the Council. The Council's Standing Orders define this position as "the Leader of the group or groups which form the administration of the Council".
 - (c) £23,179 p.a. for the Council's civic head – see item 2 on today's agenda.
 - (d) Up to £23,179 p.a. for senior councillors of which the Council is restricted to a maximum of 14.
 - (e) For the Fire and Police Joint Boards, the Convener is entitled to £23,179 p.a. and one Vice-Convener would receive £17,385. The Convener and Vice Convener of the Valuation Joint Board are entitled to £19,316 p.a. and £18,350 p.a. respectively.
- 2.2 As noted above, the Council is entitled to designate up to 14 of its Members to be "senior" councillors. Senior councillors are those who carry significant additional responsibility. It is, however, entirely a matter for Council to decide which positions, and how many of them (up to the maximum) will be so designated.
- 2.3 The Council's leader and civic head together with any members of the Council elected as convener or vice convener of a Joint Board are additional to the number of senior councillors and so do not need to be included in the quota of 14.
- 2.4 The level of payment made to each senior councillor also lies within the Council's discretion, between the parameters of £15,452 p.a. and £23,179 p.a. provided the total amount paid to all senior councillors does not exceed £270,424.
- 2.5 The Regulations provide that any remuneration requires to be paid either calendar monthly or every four weeks. Fiscal efficiency suggests that payment should be made monthly, on the same day on which payment is made to Council employees, i.e. on the 28th day of each month.

4. RECOMMENDATION

4.1 Members are invited to consider the remuneration Regulations with a view to:-

- (a) designating a member as leader of the Council, and**
- (b) determining the number of senior councillors, their positions and the level of remuneration to be paid to each.**

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Acting Director of Law and Administration Services

Date: 14 May 2007

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