

AGENDA ITEM 7

FALKIRK COUNCIL

**Subject: LOCAL GOVERNANCE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2004
(REMUNERATION) REGULATIONS 2007**
Meeting: FALKIRK COUNCIL
Date: 18 MAY 2012
Author: CHIEF GOVERNANCE OFFICER

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to summarise the statutory remuneration regulations as they relate to members of local authorities and to invite Council to determine a remuneration framework.

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

- 2.1 New remuneration arrangements for elected members were introduced by Parliament in 2007 following a consultation exercise. These arrangements were amended in 2009 and remain in place today. It is these which form the framework within which local authorities must operate.
- 2.2 The remuneration regulations provide for different levels of payment to councillors:-
- (a) £16,234 p.a. basic payment for each councillor.
 - (b) £32,470 p.a. for the leader of the Council.
 - (c) up to £24,353 p.a. for the Council's civic head – see item 4 on today's agenda.
 - (d) up to £24,353 p.a. for senior councillors of which the Council is restricted to a maximum of 14.
- 2.3 Senior councillors are those whose roles carry significant additional responsibility. It is entirely a matter for Council to decide what positions and how many of them will be so designated up to the maximum of 14. It is also for the Council to determine the level of payment to its senior councillors between the parameters of £16,234 (the basic payment) and £24,353 (75% of the Leader's payment) but the total amount to be paid cannot exceed £284,106.

2.4 In 2007 Council agreed to establish 2 levels of payment to senior councillors, dependent on the position held. This practice was continued in 2009 when the Council amended its decision making structure. Since that time, the payments have remained at £18,280 and £21,803.

2.5 The current remuneration framework is given below -

Senior Councillor (Higher Payment)	Senior Councillor (Lower Payment)
Depute Provost	Convener of Investment Committee
Convener of Education Committee	Convener of Joint Consultative Committee
Convener of Environment and Community Safety Committee	Depute Convener of Environment and Community Safety Committee
Convener of Housing and Social Care Committee	Depute Convener of Housing and Social Care Committee
Convener of Leisure, Tourism and Community Committee	Convener of Appeals Committee
Convener of Licensing Board	Depute Convener of Economic Strategy and Development Committee
Convener of Planning Committee	Leader of the main Opposition Group

2.6 The Leader of the Council and the civic head are additional to the number of senior councillors as are any office bearing appointments made by the Joint Boards.

2.7 Payments for the Convener and Vice Conveners of the 3 local Joint Boards are prescribed in the Regulations. For information, this is shown below:

Board	Convener	Vice Convener(s)
Joint Police Board	£24,353	£18,264
Joint Fire and Rescue Board	£24,353	£18,264
Joint Valuation Board	£20,294	£19,279

2.8 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 27th day of each month.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 Council is 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.**

.....
Chief Governance Officer

Date: 26 April 2012

Contact Officer: Brian Pirie, Ext.6110

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil.