

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING - 26 JUNE 2003

SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY ALLOWANCES

Joint Report by the Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources and Director of Finance

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to submit for consideration of Council an amendment to the Scheme of Members' Allowances in respect of Special Responsibility Allowances payable to Chairs of Local Planning Committees.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Scheme of Members' Allowances approved by Council on 2 April 1996 made in accordance with the Local Authority Etc (Allowances) (Scotland) Regulations 1995 determines the level and extent of Basic Allowances and Special Responsibility Allowances to be paid to Elected Members.

3. SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY ALLOWANCES

- 3.1 In terms of the Regulations, Councils have complete discretion in setting the number and level of Special Responsibility Allowances to be paid. The Special Responsibility Allowances paid by the Council have been made on the basis of CoSLA recommendations made following discussion with the former Scottish Office in 1995. The rates of allowance are based as a percentage of the Leader's allowance as detailed below.

<u>Post</u>	<u>Percentage of Leader's Allowance</u>	<u>Value as at 1 April 2003</u>
Leader	100%	£17,340
Depute Leader	75%	£13,005
Provost	75%	£13,005
Depute Provost	50%	£8,670
Chairs	75%	£13,005
Vice-Chairs	50%	£8,670
Chairs of Local Committees	20%	£3,468
Chair of Local Committee who is also Chair of Local Planning Committee	25%	£4,335
Opposition Leader	40%	£6,936

4. AMENDMENT

- 4.1** In terms of the Scheme where a Member is entitled to more than one Special Responsibility Allowance, they will be paid only the highest of them. The Policy and Resources Committee on 10 September 1997 in recognition of additional duties and responsibilities in respect of where a Chair of a Local Committee was also a Chair of a Local Planning Committee with no other responsibilities introduced a Special Responsibility Allowance of 25% of the Leader's Allowance in recognition of the additional duties and responsibilities.
- 4.2** However, an anomaly still exists within the Special Responsibility Allowance Scheme in that it does not recognise the duties and responsibilities of a Chair of a Local Planning Committee and it is proposed therefore that a Special Responsibility Allowance be set at 20% of the Leader's Allowance.
- 4.3** As a consequence of the suggested introduction of a Special Responsibility Allowance for a Chair of a Local Planning Committee it is also suggested that the allowance introduced in 1997 where a Chair of a Local Committee is also a Chair of a Local Planning Committee now be deleted.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1** The annual cost of this amendment based on present circumstances would at current year prices be £6,936. The cost in the current financial year for the period from 1 July 2003 to 31 March 2004 would be £5,259. Funding exists within the Democratic Process budget to meet this additional cost.

6. RECOMMENDATION

- 6.1** It is recommended that the Council:-
- (i) consider amending paragraph 2.2 of the Scheme of Members' Allowances to include a Special Responsibility Allowance at the rate of 20% of the Leader's Allowance to be paid to a Member who is Chair of a Local Planning Committee and to delete the Special Responsibility Allowance of 25% for a Chair of a Local Committee who is also a Chair of a Local Planning Committee; and
 - (ii) to otherwise note the report.

Fiona Lees
Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources

Alex McPhee
Director of Finance

BW/SM
13 June 2003

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Scheme of Members' Allowances and Expenses.

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers listed above should contact Alex McPhee, Director of Finance on Tel No (01563) 576300.