

ANGUS COUNCIL

ANGUS COUNCIL – 12 MAY 2016

MEMBERS REMUNERATION, ALLOWANCES, EXPENSES AND ATTENDANCES 2015/16

REPORT BY MARK ARMSTRONG, STRATEGIC DIRECTOR - RESOURCES

ABSTRACT

This report brings to the Council's attention the amount of remuneration, allowances and, expenses paid to Councillors for the period 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016. The report also provides an update on Members training and the record of member attendances at Council Committee meetings.

1. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that the Council:

- (i) note the contents of this report for its interest;
- (ii) note that the information in Appendix 1 will be published on the Council's website in accordance with legislative requirements; and
- (iii) note the member attendance information, as detailed in Appendix 2.

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE ANGUS COMMUNITY PLAN/SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT/COUNCIL PLAN

This report assists with Compliance with the Local Code of Corporate Governance which requires that we provide a strong vision and effective leadership from members and officers and that the systems and processes we use are robust.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The Council is required by legislation to publish in a standard format details of the amounts of remuneration (salaries), allowances and expenses paid to Councillors in respect of the financial year by 1 June each year. The Council is also required to make information on councillors' remuneration and expenses available for inspection at council offices when requested to do so in writing by a member of the public.

3.2 This report provides details of the payments made in the financial year 2015/16 in Appendix 1. Members' attention is drawn to the notes in the Appendix which provide additional contextual and explanatory information.

3.3 Members should also note that in terms of revised guidance 'Councillors' Remuneration, Allowances and Expenses (May 2015)', certain additional information requires to be published in the annual summary. This additional information needs to reflect any costs met directly by the council on behalf of councillors, i.e. the use of the council car, training and conference expenses and other telephone costs.

3.4 Information in relation to member attendance at Council Committee meetings is contained within Appendix 2 to the Report. It should however be noted that this information only reflects formal Committee meetings attended and does not cover the wide variety of other meetings and activities which member attend such as member/officer working groups, meetings of outside bodies, etc.

4. ELECTED MEMBER TRAINING UPDATE

4.1 For the year 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016 a total of 544 hours of training and development were undertaken by members. All members of the council participated in training of different types. This includes formal training courses, conferences, seminars, distance learning, vocational education, briefings, workshops and e-learning packages. Topics covered in training sessions included a Local Development Plan Workshop, Development Management Review Training, Major Planning application training, TUPE, Next Steps for the Curriculum governance. Personal Development Plans were also updated where necessary and individual members continue to attend relevant training courses and briefings in support of these as appropriate.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no additional financial implications arising from the recommendations in this report. All remuneration, allowances and expenses paid to Councillors have been contained within the Members Services 2015/16 Revenue Budget.

5.2 In total remuneration, allowances and expenses payments to Councillors of £623,506 were made in financial year 2015/16 whereof £3,138 was paid by other bodies or organisations, leaving £620,368 paid by the council.

5.3 Also included in the total £623,506 for the financial year is the value of the additional costs met by the council on behalf of Councillors totalling £19,462 being £11,910 for the use of the council car, £658 for training and conference expenses and £6,894 for other telephone and ICT costs.

6. CONSULTATION

6.1 The Chief Executive, Head of Corporate Improvement and Finance, Head of Legal and Democratic Services and the Head of HR, IT and Organisational Development have been consulted on the terms of this report.

NOTE: No background papers, as detailed by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above report.

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List of Appendices:

Appendix 1: Members Remuneration, Allowances and Expenses 2015/2016
Appendix 2: Members Attendances 2015/2016