

The City of Edinburgh Council

10am, Thursday, 15 March 2018

Senior Councillor Allowances and Appointments

Item number	8.1
Report number	
Executive/routine	
Wards	
Council Commitments	

Executive Summary

The Council is permitted to appoint senior councillors and corresponding additional remuneration within a maximum number and budget set out in the Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004.

The City of Edinburgh Council on 22 February 2018 following a motion by Councillor Rust requested that the Chief Executive report to the next meeting on the options for using the senior councillor allowances currently paid to the four locality leads.

Senior Councillor Allowances and Appointments

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 The Council is asked to approve either option A (1.2), option B (1.3-1.6) or option C (1.7-1.8):

Option A

- 1.2 To make no changes to the senior councillor allowances.

Option B

- 1.3 To appoint a vice-convenor of the Planning Committee and allocate a senior councillor allowance of £25,391.
- 1.4 To nominate a representative of the Council to the Board of NHS Lothian.
- 1.5 To amend the allowance for the Convener/Vice-Convener of the Edinburgh Integration Joint Board as set out in paragraph 3.4.
- 1.6 To create and appoint to, two senior councillor allowance lead member roles, initially leading on income maximisation and the transient visitor levy with an allowance of £25,391.

Option c

- 1.7 To allocate senior councillor allowances of £24,121 to three locality conveners, noting that one of the locality conveners already received an allowance as the Liberal Democrat Group Leader.
- 1.8 To appoint a vice-convenor of the Planning Committee and allocate a senior councillor allowance.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Council is permitted to appoint senior councillors and corresponding additional remuneration within a maximum number and budget set out in the Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004.
- 2.2 There is a maximum number of 24 senior councillor allowances, not including the Leader of the Council and the Lord Provost, and their combined remuneration must not exceed £660,171.

- 2.3 In June 2017, the Council agreed to support the development of the locality committee model by identifying four political leads with each post receiving a senior councillor allowance.
- 2.4 Locality committees have now been established and a convener and vice-convener appointed for each locality. As a result, the need for a political lead to establish locality committees has now ended.
- 2.5 The Council on 22 February 2018 considered a motion by Councillor Rust and agreed to remove the four senior councillor allowances from the lead locality councillors agreed in June 2017. The Council also instructed the Chief Executive to report on options for using the four locality lead allowances.

3. Main report

- 3.1 The four locality leads were provided an allowance of £24,121 each and the number of senior councillor allowances was at a maximum with these four allowances and was £6 below the maximum cost allowed.

Option A

- 3.2 Option A is simply to make no changes to the senior councillor allowances at this point and to give further consideration when the review of Locality Committees takes place in late 2018. This would result in there being headroom available within the total permitted expenditure for senior councillors.

Option B

- 3.3 Option B suggests a different approach in regard to replacing the four locality allowances to reflect the workload of the current committee system but also to ensure political leadership and oversight of key initiatives that the Council wish to progress.
- 3.4 The Planning Committee has a significant workload, due to the inclusion of the Development Management Sub-Committee and the Planning Local Review Body. To provide further support to this important role it is proposed that a senior councillor allowance is reinstated as well as the position of the Vice Convener of Planning. It is recommended that the allowance for this post is the same as vice-conveners of executive committees which is £25,391.
- 3.5 There is currently an allowance for the Convener or Vice-Convener of the Edinburgh Integration Joint Board depending on which role the City of Edinburgh Council representative fulfils. The current role is convener and the elected member also sits as the City of Edinburgh Council's representative on the NHS Board as a non-executive member. There is an allowance of £8251 provided to that non-executive board member which is separate to the senior councillor allowance thresholds.

- 3.6 Due to the increasing and important role in leading the Edinburgh Integration Joint Board, it is recommended that the role of Convener/Vice-Convener and NHS Board representative is separated and two rather than one elected members hold these posts. The current remuneration of the convener/vice-convener of the Edinburgh Integration Joint Board is £25,391 which was set with the knowledge that the payment for the NHS Board role was also allocated to this same elected member. Accordingly, it is recommended that the remuneration for the convener/vice-convener of the Edinburgh Integration Joint Board is raised to 62.5% of the Leader of the Council's allowance which is £31,739 and is in line with the allowances for conveners of executive committees.
- 3.7 As highlighted earlier there is scope to utilise senior councillor allowances in a different way to build political capacity and help ensure increased political leadership and oversight in key areas where the Council is looking to deliver significant change. The focus of these lead member roles can change but at the outset it is suggested that they could focus on income maximisation and the transient visitor levy which are key areas that the Council is exploring and require additional political leadership, drive and accountability.
- 3.8 These roles would provide political leadership and accountability for those workstreams. Income maximisation and the transient visitor levy are both cross-cutting and do not fit within the remit of any one executive committee. This can result in a number of referred inter-committee reports which can lack a central co-ordination and focus. Thus, there is a key role for these lead members to provide leadership in working alongside committee conveners and vice-conveners, whilst co-ordinating and driving forward the Council's approach. Decisions on these areas would remain within the remit of committees and the lead members would work closely with the conveners and vice-conveners of the relevant executive committees when decisions were required to be taken by the Council. Progress on these workstreams will be reported to the Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee, where the lead member will be invited to update elected members on the work undertaken. It is recommended that these roles also have an allowance of £25,391.

Option C

- 3.9 Option C is a straightforward option and simply replaces the four allowances of £24,121 allocated to the locality leads to the locality conveners but taking into account that councillors can not receive more than one allowance. The Locality Committees are decision making committees of the Council and it would be a legitimate use of senior allowances for the conveners to be allocated an allowance. These allocations potentially would alter on a more frequent basis as it is expected that the convenerships will rotate on an annual basis.
- 3.10 The current Liberal Democrat Group Leader has been appointed as a convener of the Locality Committee. A councillor can not be allocated two allowances so it is recommended that this allowance is utilised for another senior role. It is suggested

that this remuneration is used to provide an allowance for the Vice-Convenor of Planning role.

4. Measures of success

4.1 Not applicable.

5. Financial impact

5.1 There are no additional costs as a result of this report.

6. Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

6.1 The recommendations comply with the rules set out in the Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004.

7. Equalities impact

7.1 Not applicable.

8. Sustainability impact

8.1 Not applicable.

9. Consultation and engagement

9.1 Not applicable.

10. Background reading/external references

10.1 [The City of Edinburgh Council 22 February 2018](#)

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11. Appendices
