POLICY NOTE

THE LOCAL GOVERNANCE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2004 (REMUNERATION) AMENDMENT REGULATIONS 2024

SSI 2024/24

The above instrument was made in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 11(1) and 16(2)(b) of the Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004. It is subject to the negative procedure.

These regulations will implement the arrangement introduced in 2017 by increasing councillors' pay by 6.2% with effect from 1 April 2024.

Policy Objective

This instrument makes provision in relation to the remuneration of local authority councillors. It amends the Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004 (Remuneration) Regulations 2007 to increase the level of remuneration payable to local authority councillors by 6.2%.

EU Alignment Consideration

This instrument is not relevant to the Scottish Government's policy to maintain alignment with the EU.

Consultation

There is no statutory requirement for the Scottish Ministers to undertake a consultation before implementing an increase on councillors' salaries. Ministers are following the procedure established in 2017, to increase councillors' pay annually in line with the percentage increase in the median annual earnings of public sector workers in Scotland. This information is published by the Office of National Statistics in the *Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings*.

Impact Assessments

An equality impact assessment has not been undertaken as the increase in councillors' remuneration applies to all local authority members. The Scottish Ministers have decided that a Business Regulatory Impact Assessment is not required as there is no impact on business or the third sector and the impact on the public sector (council budgets) is not expected to cause a significant financial pressure.

Financial Effects

The salary increase would be met from existing council budgets: it is estimated that for 2024-25 the total cost would be around £1,914,441 across all 32 councils.

Local Government and Analytical Services Division
The Scottish Government

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