POLICY NOTE

THE LOCAL GOVERNANCE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2004 (REMUNERATION AND SEVERANCE PAYMENTS) AMENDMENT REGULATIONS 2015

SSI 2015/7

The above instrument is made by the Scottish Ministers in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 11, 12 and 16(2) of the Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004 and all other powers enabling them to do so.

Policy Objectives

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 1%, which increase will take effect from 1 April 2015.

This instrument revokes the Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004 (Severance Payments) 2006 Regulations which made provision for the payment of severance payments to elected members that chose to stand down at the elections held on 3 May 2007. The 2006 Regulations are revoked as they have no continuing purpose.

Consultation

There is no requirement for the Scottish Ministers to undertake a consultation before making a recommendation on councillors' salaries. However Ministers have had discussions with the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA), who are aware of the 1% increase.

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. The salary increase would be met from existing council budgets: it is estimated that for 2015-16 the cost would be around £230,000 across all 32 councils.

Local Government Division
Scottish Government
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