

### **3 ELECTED MEMBERS' TELEPHONE EXPENSES (AN249-2003)**

The payment of telephone allowances to elected members is covered by Section 69 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1973. The annual rate for the City Council's elected members' telephone allowance for 2002/03 was £300. It is recommended that the allowance be increased by 2.5% in line with inflation, bringing the revised telephone allowance for 2003/04 to £308.

Members can only claim a telephone allowance if they have a telephone in their home which is accessible by the general public. (An ex directory number does not satisfy this requirement).

Mobile telephones are now available to all elected members on the basis that they purchase "pay as you go" cards. If a member claims a telephone allowance, then they would not be reimbursed for any business calls. If, however, a member does not claim a telephone allowance, then they may claim for any business calls.

If this recommendation is approved, members may collect their telephone allowance claim form and guidance from the Director of Finance at the close of the meeting.