

REPORT TO: FINANCE COMMITTEE – 19 MAY 2003

REPORT ON: SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY ALLOWANCES

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

REPORT NO: 356-2003

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report proposes the level of Convener and Lord Provost Allowances and Special Responsibility Allowances (SRA) payable to the City Council's Elected Members from 1 May 2003.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee:

- i approves the maximum Convener, Lord Provost and Special Responsibility Allowances as detailed in Appendix A;
- ii agrees that the Special Responsibility Allowances referred to in this report be paid with effect from 1 May 2003;
- iii agrees that only one additional allowance to the Basic Allowance may be paid to any Elected Member;
- iv agrees that where a Committee Convener is also a Group Officer, that the applicable allowance would not be increased to the next highest band;
- v notes that each political group has discretion as to how it may allocate the total of its Special Responsibility Allowances between the individual members of the political group;
- vi instructs the Director of Finance to prepare a Scheme of Allowances and submit this to an early meeting of the Finance Committee.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Based on the principle that an elected member may only be paid one Special Responsibility Allowance, whichever is the highest, it is estimated that the total cost of the Special Responsibility Allowances in a full financial year will be £238,775. This estimated cost is in excess of the 2003/04 Revenue Budget provision by £26,814 and this sum will be met from the General Contingency provision included within the 2003/04 Revenue Budget.

4 BACKGROUND

In 1996 COSLA issued guidance to Councils on the setting of Elected Members Special Responsibility Allowances and the main features of this guidance were as follows:-

- 1 The Convention consider that the post of Leader of a Council is likely to require a full-time commitment and that it would be appropriate to determine the SRA at a level comparable with the salary levels of Professional Staff in Local Government, less the basic allowance. For Dundee City Council, the COSLA proposed SRA for Leader of the majority group was £15,000 per annum, which when uprated for inflation is £18,695.
- 2 The Convener (ie Lord Provost) of the Councils of the cities and other Councils, which have a particularly high level of civic hospitality, should be paid an allowance which reflects this fact.

- 3 The SRA's payable for other posts such as Depute Leader and Convenerships of major Service Committees or major Resource Committees, should be set at 75% of the Leader's Allowance.
- 4 Payment of SRA's for Depute Conveners for the major Services Committees and for Conveners of Committees for a service with more limited scope than those referred to in 3 above, should be set at 50% of the Leader's allowance.
- 5 Payment of SRA to Leaders of Opposition Groups should also be set as a percentage of the Leader's allowance, dependent on the number of Members of the opposition party, as a proportion of the whole Council. The COSLA proposals are as follows:-
 - a Where opposition party is at least 30% of total Members, then SRA should be 50% of SRA for Leader of the majority group.
 - b Where opposition party is at least 20% of total Members, then SRA should be 40% of the SRA for Leader of the majority group.
 - c Where opposition party is less than 20% of the total number of Members, then the SRA should be 30% of the SRA for Leader of the majority group.

In addition, COSLA also suggest that the Leader of a third significant party on the Council ie having at least 10% of total Members should also receive an SRA.

- 6 Each Member awarded a Special Responsibility Allowance should receive only one such allowance, whichever is the highest.

5 **PROPOSED SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY ALLOWANCES**

The proposed Special Responsibility Allowances (SRA) of the Administration are in line with the COSLA Guidance and are detailed in Appendix A.

The proposed SRA's for the Majority Opposition Group detailed in Appendix A are in line with those payable during the period of the last Council, ie 7 May 1999 to 1 May 2003, plus a 13.68% increase to reflect the movement in the total Special Responsibility Allowances payable to the other political groups in the Council.

6 **SCHEME OF ALLOWANCES**

In terms of the Local Authority etc (Allowances)(Scotland) Regulations 1995, the Council is required, as soon as practicable after, to determine a Scheme of Allowances which must provide for Basic Allowance. The Scheme may also provide for Attendance Allowance and Special Responsibility Allowance. If the Council agrees the level of SRA to be paid, then the formal Scheme of Allowance will be prepared.

7 **CONCLUSION**

The Committee's decision on Convener, Lord Provost, Deputes thereof and Special Responsibility Allowances will be effective for the financial years 2003/04 to 2006/07, subject to inflationary increases in line with the APT & C pay award.

8 **CONSULTATION**

The Chief Executive and Director of Support Services have been consulted on the contents of this report.

DAVID K DORWARD
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

DATE 16 May 2003

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

DKD/ID(LAB)
16-May-03
Reports/Special Responsibility Allowances

PROPOSAL FOR SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY ALLOWANCES

<u>Post/Committee</u>	<u>Convener</u> <u>£</u>	<u>Depute</u> <u>£</u>
Leader	18695	14021
Depute Leader	14021	
Lord Provost	16826	9347
Education	14021	5608
Housing	14021	5608
Social Work	14021	5608
Finance	14021	5608
Development Quality	14021	5608
Licensing Committee	14021	5608
Economic Development	11217	4487
Planning and Transport	11217	4487
Neighbourhood Resources	9347	3739
ECPD	9347	3739
Leisure and Arts	9347	3739
Licensing Board	9347	
<u>SNP Group</u>	41547	

Only the allowances shown in bold will be paid.

