

RENFREWSHIRE VALUATION JOINT BOARD

To: Renfrewshire Valuation Joint Board

On: 20 May 2016

Report by: The Clerk and The Treasurer

**Heading: Remuneration of Elected Members who are appointed
Conveners and Vice-conveners of Joint Boards**

1. Background

- 1.1 The Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004 (Remuneration) Regulations 2007 (hereafter referred to as “the 2007 Regulations”) introduced a system of remuneration for elected members which created four grades of councillors for the purposes of calculating remuneration: (i) the leader of the council, (ii) the civic head, (iii) senior councillors; and (iv) councillors. The yearly remuneration for councillors who are not being paid as leader of the council, civic head or senior councillor is set at a fixed rate (that rate being £16,893 from 1 April 2016).
- 1.2 Each local authority has been banded within Band A, Band B, Band C or Band D for the purposes of payment of remuneration to councillors. East Renfrewshire and Inverclyde Councils are Band A councils and are restricted to a maximum of 9 senior councillors per authority; Renfrewshire Council is a Band B council and is restricted to a maximum of 14 senior councillors.
- 1.3 The 2007 Regulations relate specifically to Scottish local authorities, to fire and rescue joint boards, to police joint boards and to “other” joint boards as defined under prevailing statutes, of which the Renfrewshire Valuation Joint Board is one.
- 1.4 Since 2007, various amendment regulations have had the effect of amending the yearly remuneration to be paid to elected members, including those elected members who are conveners or vice-conveners of joint boards. The most recent amendment regulations were laid before the Scottish Parliament on 13 January 2016 and came into force from 1 April 2016. These amendment regulations – *The Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004 (Remuneration) Amendment Regulations 2016* (“the 2016 amendment regulations”) – stipulate changes to the remuneration rates payable to elected members.

- 1.5 The main change implemented by the 2016 amendment regulations is, generally, an increase of 1% in the yearly remuneration payable to councillors from 1 April 2016.
- 1.6 The 2016 amendment regulations stipulate that the **convener of a joint board** shall be paid, from **1 April 2016**, a total yearly amount of **£21,118** (equivalent to 75 per cent of the salary of the leader of a Band A council), inclusive of any amount payable to them as a local authority councillor under the 2007 Regulations.
- 1.7 The 2016 amendment regulations also stipulate that the **vice-convener of a joint board** shall be paid, from **1 April 2016**, a total yearly amount of **£20,063** (equivalent to the basic councillor salary plus 75 per cent of the difference between the basic councillor salary and the convener's salary), inclusive of any amount payable to them as a local authority councillor under the 2007 Regulations.
- 1.8 The Regulations state that "remuneration shall be paid by the local authority of which the convener or vice-convener (as the case may be) is a member to one convener and one vice-convener for each joint board", and so the remuneration costs for both the Convener and the Depute Convener of the Renfrewshire Valuation Joint Board shall be met in full by Renfrewshire Council (for Councillor Mullin) and by East Renfrewshire (for Councillor O'Kane).
- 1.9 Councillor Mullin, Convener, is a senior councillor within Renfrewshire Council. The difference between his yearly remuneration as Convener (£21,118 from 1 April 2016) and what his yearly remuneration would otherwise ordinarily be as a senior councillor (£20,774 from 1 April 2016) of £344 shall be met by his own local authority.
- 1.10 Councillor O'Kane, Depute Convener, is not classified as a senior councillor within East Renfrewshire Council. The difference between his yearly remuneration as Depute Convener (£20,063 from 1 April 2016) and what his yearly remuneration would otherwise ordinarily be as a councillor (£16,893 from 1 April 2016) of £3,170 shall be met by his own local authority.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Joint Board notes the revised remuneration levels mandated by The Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004 (Remuneration) Amendment Regulations 2016 for the Convener and Depute Convener of the Renfrewshire Valuation Joint Board as follows:

Position	yearly remuneration for 2015-2016	yearly remuneration from 1 April 2016
Convener	£20,909	£21,118
Depute Convener	£19,864	£20,063

- 2.2 It is recommended that the Joint Board notes that the remuneration costs for each position shall be met by the local authority at which the position holder is an elected member.