

Causeway Coast & Glens Shadow Council

Councillors Allowances - 1 June 2014 to 31 March 2015

The Executive has provided funding to support Shadow Councils and part of that is to fund Councillors Allowances and Expenses during the Shadow period.

The maximum funding available is -

Basic, Special Responsibility and Carers Allowances	389,520
Travel, subsistence and other expenses	60,600
	<u>450,120</u>

The cost of allowances and expenses for the 10 month period has been estimated as detailed below.

The following assumptions have been made to calculate the estimated cost -

- (i) the maximum level of basic allowance as determined by the DOE will be paid.
- (ii) the maximum level of carers allowances as determined by the DOE will be paid.
- (iii) the maximum level of mileage rates as determined by the DOE will be paid.
- (iv) 75% of councillors will join the pension scheme (based on current uptake in existing Councils).

Estimated Costs

Basic Allowance	327,840
Special Responsibility Allowance	30,000
Employers costs - ni and pension contributions	57,280
Dependants Carers Allowance	3,000
Travel, subsistence and other expenses	32,000

TOTAL 450,120

Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA)

Council is required to identify the special responsibilities for which the allowance is to be paid. Three of the existing councils pay SRA to Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Chairs of main committees. Attached is an options paper detailing responsibilities and level of allowances for consideration. Option 1 allows for payment of special responsibility allowance to the Presiding and Deputy Presiding Councillors, Chairs of the 4 Committees and the nominated representative on the Partnership Panel. Option 2 allows for payment to Vice-Chairs of the Committees. Should more than 75% of Councillors join the Pension scheme, a third option will arise whereby a reduced amount of special responsibility allowance may be payable.

Scheme of Allowances Payable to Councillors 2014/2015

Under the Local Government (Payments to Councillors) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012, Council is required to prepare a Scheme of Allowances Payable to Councillors.

The Scheme, when approved is to be published on the council website. Details of all allowances paid to each councillor are to be published at the end of the financial year.

A draft Scheme for 2014/2015 has been prepared, as attached. The draft Scheme includes the maximum rates for Basic Allowance, Dependants Carers Allowance and Travel and Subsistence Allowance and option 2 for the Special Responsibility Allowance.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Council -

Approve the Scheme of Allowances which includes Option 2 for Special Responsibility. Should uptake to the Pension Scheme exceed 75%, a further report will be brought to Council.

Special Responsibility Allowance - Options Paper		
Responsibility	Option 1	Option 2
	(Deputy 50%)	(Deputies 50%)
Presiding Councillor	7,500	6,000
Deputy Presiding Councillor	3,750	3,000
Chair of Governance Committee	3,750	3,000
Chair of Organisation Development Committee	3,750	3,000
Chair of Transferring Functions & Group Committee	3,750	3,000
Chair of Corporate Policy & Resources Committee	3,750	3,000
Deputy Chair of Governance Committee		1,500
Deputy Chair of Organisation Development Committee		1,500
Deputy Chair of Transferring Functions & Group Committee		1,500
Deputy Chair of Corporate Policy & Resources Committee		1,500
Partnership Panel	3,750	3,000
	30,000	30,000