

## ANGUS COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

10 February 1998

## SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY ALLOWANCES

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

**ABSTRACT**

To seek Committee approval to increase members' Special Responsibility Allowances.

**1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is proposed that the COSLA recommended increase in Special Responsibility Allowances be applied from 1 March 1998, with allowances backdated to 1 August 1997. It is also proposed that any future upratings, each 1 April, which should be linked to the annual percentage pay award made to local government employees (APT & C and Manual Workers), should be applied appropriately.

**2. INTRODUCTION**

Intimation has been received from COSLA of recommended amendments to the Special Responsibility Allowances which are paid to members. The new rates are effective from 1 August 1997.

Since the above allowances were originally set in Report AC29/95 dated 20 June 1995, this is the first increase.

The Circular received also recommends "that the annual uprating of Special Responsibility Allowances should be linked to the annual percentage pay award made to local government employees (APT & C and Manual Workers) with effect from 1997/98". It has been recommended by COSLA that an uprating of 2.5% should be applied from 1 August 1997 with subsequent upratings applying from 1 April in each year thereafter. The COSLA letter is enclosed for information.

**3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

If the new rates applied from 1 August 1997 in line with the recommendation of this report, the current year cost will be in the order of £3,003 and some £4,505 in a full year. Future costs each 1 April will be identified once the percentage increase of APT & C/Manual employees has been agreed.

**4. CONSULTATION**

The Chief Executive and the Director of Law and Administration have been consulted on the contents of this report.

D.S. SAWERS  
Director of Finance

NOTE: No background papers, as defined by Sections 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 this report.

RM/LH/AB  
27 January 1998  
SpecResAll



CHIEF EXECUTIVE

'97 DEC 16 -8 145

15 December 1997

Your Ref:

To: Chief Executives

Our Ref: P/5

c.c. Leaders of Administration and the Conveners of East  
Renfrewshire, Highland, Scottish Borders, Dumfries  
& Galloway, Orkney, Shetland and Western Isles.

Directors of Finance

Dear Colleague

### SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY ALLOWANCES

As you know, COSLA's advice to councils on the payment of Special Responsibility Allowances issued in 1996 was developed with all party support. After having sought the views of all the political groups within COSLA, the President's Panel have agreed the following amendments to the advice previously given:-

- (1) that the annual uprating of Special Responsibility Allowances should be linked to the annual percentage pay award made to local government employees (APT & C and Manual Workers) with effect from 1997/98 and an uprating of 2.5% should therefore apply from 1 August 1997 with subsequent upratings applying from 1 April in each year thereafter;
- (2) that basic membership payments made to a councillor as a member of any publicly funded organisation should not result in any abatement being made to any SRA payment which the councillor receives; and
- (3) that payments made to a councillor as the Chair or Vice Chair of any publicly funded organisation should result in the abatement of any SRA which the councillor receives. This abatement should reflect the time commitment required as Chair or Vice Chair of the organisation. An abatement of 10% of the SRA should be made for each half day per week the councillor commits as Chair or Vice Chair of the organisation.

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WHEN CALLING PLEASE ASK FOR: Andy O'Neill (0131 474 9206) [andy@cosla.demon.co.uk](mailto:andy@cosla.demon.co.uk)

I would be grateful if you would take the necessary steps to implement these recommendations. You will also be interested to know that the Panel has agreed to consider the scope for the future determination of allowances using the principles of job evaluation and I will keep you informed of developments in this regard.

Yours sincerely



Douglas Sinclair  
Chief Executive