

REMUNERATION REPORT**STATEMENT 3****1. INTRODUCTION**

In accordance with the Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2011, West Lothian Council is required to prepare a Remuneration Report to disclose remuneration information and details of West Lothian Council's remuneration policy for "relevant persons". The Regulations define "relevant persons" as senior councillors and senior employees.

Information disclosed in the tables in this report is subject to audit by Audit Scotland to report on whether that information has been properly prepared in accordance with the Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2014 (with the exception of the table in note 4.4). All other sections of the Remuneration Report, including the table in note 4.4, are read and considered to identify any material inconsistencies with the financial statements.

2. COUNCIL LEADER, PROVOST AND SENIOR COUNCILLORS**2.1 Remuneration Policy**

The remuneration of councillors is regulated by the Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004 (Remuneration) Regulations 2007, as amended. The Regulations provide for the grading of councillors for the purposes of remuneration arrangements, as either the Leader of the Council, the Provost, Senior Councillors or Councillors. The Leader of the Council and the Provost cannot be the same person for the purposes of payment of remuneration. A senior councillor is a councillor who holds a significant position of responsibility in the council's political management structure.

The salary that is to be paid to the Leader of the Council is set out in the Regulations. For 2023/24 the salary for the Leader of West Lothian Council was £40,205 (£39,148 2022/23). The Regulations permit the council to remunerate one Provost and set out the maximum salary that may be paid to the Provost. For 2023/24 the salary of the Provost of West Lothian Council was £30,154 (£29,361 2022/23). The council's Scheme of Elected Members Remuneration, Allowances and Reimbursement of Expenses 2023/24 sets the level of payment in accordance with the regulations at the national maximum.

The Regulations also set out the remuneration that may be paid to senior councillors and the total number of senior councillors the council may have. The maximum yearly amount that may be paid to a Senior Councillor is 75 per cent of the total yearly amount payable to the Leader of the Council. The total yearly amount payable by the council for remuneration of all of its Senior Councillors for 2023/24 shall not exceed £351,769 (£342,524 2022/23). The council is able to exercise local flexibility in the determination of the precise number of Senior Councillors and their salary within these maximum limits.

In 2023/24 West Lothian Council had 12 (12 2022/23) senior councillors and the basic salary paid to these councillors totalled £351,769 (£327,521 2022/23). The Regulations also permit the council to pay contributions or other payments as required to the Local Government Pension Scheme in respect of those councillors who elect to become councillor members of the pension scheme.

The Scheme of Elected Members Remuneration, Allowances and Reimbursement of Expenses which sets out details of the salary parameters for all elected members including the Leader, Provost and Senior Councillors was agreed at a meeting of the Council Executive on 21 March 2023 and is available on the following link: [Scheme of Elected Members Remuneration 2023/24](#)

2.2 Remuneration Policy - Convenors and Vice Convenors for Police and Fire Functions and Joint Boards

In addition to the Senior Councillors of the council the Regulations also set out the remuneration payable to councillors with the responsibility of a convener or a vice-convener of a Joint Board. The Regulations require the remuneration to be paid by the council of which the convener or vice-convener is a member. The council is also required to pay any pension contributions arising from the convener or vice-convener being a member of the Local Government Pension Scheme.

In 2023/24 there no recharge (£698 2022/23) to Lothian Valuation Joint Board for Councillor T Conn, in respect of his convener position of the Board as a result of his existing Senior Councillor status.

2.3 Total Councillors Remuneration

The council paid the following salaries, allowances and expenses to all councillors (including the senior councillors above) during the year: -

Type of Remuneration

Salaries
Allowances
Expenses
Total

2023/24 £'000	2022/23 £'000
808	771
3	2
13	7
824	780

The annual return of Councillors' salaries and expenses for 2023/24 is available for any member of the public to view at all Council Information Services Offices and Libraries during normal working hours and is also available on the council's website at the following link: [Elected Member Remuneration 2023/24](#)