



Belfast City Council

Report to	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Councillors' Allowances
Date:	6th September, 2013
Reporting Officer:	Stephen McCrory, democratic Services Manager

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	Correspondence has been received from the Department of the Environment (copy attached at Appendix 1) indicating that the Department has determined new maximum rates of allowances payable under the Local Government (Payments to Councillors) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012.

2	Key Issues
2.1	The Councillors' Remuneration Working Group, in its report in June, 2006, recommended that the increase in councillors' allowances should be in line with the annual increase in the pay of local government officers. The Northern Ireland Joint Council for Local Government Services has advised the Department that agreement has been reached on a pay increase of 1% for local government officers with effect from 1st April, 2013 and the Minister for the Environment has agreed that an increase of 1% should be applied to councillors' allowances with effect from that date.
2.2	It should be noted that this increase will not affect the separate allowance payable for members of the Statutory Transition Committees which has been established at a maximum of £2,700 per annum.
2.3	The increase applies to the basic allowance payable to councillors and increases the maximum payable per member from £9,738 per annum to £9,835 per annum. The maximum payable under the Special Responsibility Allowance has also been subjected to a 1% increase and is now £82,820.
2.4	The Committee, in December 2012, had agreed the mechanism for the allocation of payments under the Special Responsibility Allowance and attached at Appendix 2 is the new allocations if the 1% increase were to be applied equally across the various payments.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	The increase in the amounts payable to councillors can be met from within existing revenue budgets.

4	Equality and Good Relations Implications
4.1	There are not any relevant equality or good relations issues associated with this report.

5	Recommendations
5.1	<p>The Committee is recommended to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree to the increase in the councillors' basic allowance from £9,378 per annum to £9,835 per annum with effect from 1st April, 2013. • Agree to the increase in the Special Responsibility Allowance from £82,000 per annum to £82,820 per annum and to the allocation of the allowance payments as set out in Appendix 2 to the report with effect from 1st April, 2013.

6	Decision Tracking
<p>Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager October, 2013</p>	

7	Documents Attached
<p>Appendix 1 – Correspondence from the Department of the Environment</p> <p>Appendix 2 – Allocation of Special Responsibility Allowance with effect from 1st April, 2013</p>	