

# The City of Edinburgh Council

10.00am, Thursday 20 March 2025

## Senior Councillor Remuneration March 2025

Executive/routine  
Wards  
Council Commitments

### 1. Recommendations

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- 1.1 To agree the changes to the senior councillor allowances from 1 April 2025 as detailed in the appendix to the report.

**Paul Lawrence**

Chief Executive

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# Report

## Senior Councillor Remuneration March 2025

### 2. Executive Summary

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- 2.1 Council is asked to agree the senior councillor remuneration for April 2025. The remuneration for the basic councillor role and the Leader of the Council is required by the Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004 (Remuneration) Amendment Regulations 2025.

### 3. Background

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- 3.1 In April 2023, the Scottish Local Authorities Remuneration Committee (SLARC) was reconvened to undertake an independent review of councillor remuneration.
- 3.2 Following the Review, the Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004 (Remuneration) Amendment Regulations 2025 were laid before the Scottish Parliament on 23 January 2025 and will come into force on 1 April 2025. It will impact the salary for all elected members in Scotland and also changes the remuneration for the Council Leader.

### 4. Main report

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- 4.1 The remuneration for the non-senior councillor role has been changed from £21,345 to £25,982 to reflect an amount that is 80% of the median salary for all employees in the public sector in Scotland. This is a legislative change and the Council must apply this increase in remuneration.
- 4.2 The salaries of the Leader of the Council for authorities in Band D (Edinburgh and Glasgow) will now be benchmarked to the salary of a Member of the Scottish Parliament. This results in the Leader of the Council, from 1 April 2025, being paid a salary of £71,519 (current is £64,043). This also is a legislative change, and the Council must apply this increase in remuneration. The payment to the Civic Head has also been increased and again the figure is set by the Regulations.
- 4.3 There was no change to the number of Senior Councillors (24) permitted in Edinburgh, although there were changes to the number permitted in a number of other Councils. Senior Councillors in Edinburgh are paid a percentage of the remuneration of the Leader of the Council with a maximum permitted of 75% of the

salary. At the Council budget meeting the decision was to not apply an increase in remuneration for those senior councillors who would normally have increased due to the increase in the remuneration for the Leader of the Council. This has effectively frozen the remuneration for those councillors and thus a reduction in the percentage of the Leader's allowance they receive.

- 4.4 The Council currently has 19 senior councillors (maximum 24) and spend £733,826 of the £955,455 allowance.

## **5. Next Steps**

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- 5.1 Not applicable.

## **6. Financial impact**

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- 6.1 This allowance is contained within the Council's budget for councillor remuneration.

## **7. Equality and Poverty Impact**

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- 7.1 There are no equality and poverty impacts as a result of this report.

## **8. Climate and Nature Emergency Implications**

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- 8.1 There are no climate or nature emergency implications as a result of this report.

## **9. Risk, policy, compliance, governance and community Impact**

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- 9.1 The [Local Governance \(Scotland\) Act 2004 \(Remuneration\) Amendment Regulations 2025](#) have been laid before the Scottish Parliament and require to be implemented.

## **10. Background reading/external references**

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- 10.1 [Scottish Government Website – SLARC recommendations](#)

## **11. Appendices**

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Appendix One - Table of remuneration

**APPOINTMENTS APRIL 2025**  
**SENIOR COUNCILLOR REMUNERATION**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Pay - Percentage</b>	<b>Salary</b>	<b>Councillor</b>
1	Leader of the Council	Set by statute	£71,519	Councillor Meagher
2	Lord Provost	Set by statute	£53,640	Councillor Aldridge
3	Depute Leader of the Council	67.2%	£48,032	Councillor Watt
4	Depute Convener		n/a	Councillor Cameron
5	Convener – Culture and Communities	56%	£40,027	Councillor Walker
6	Convener – Transport and Environment	56%	£40,027	Councillor Jenkinson
7	Convener – Housing and Economy	56%	£40,027	Councillor Cameron
8	Convener – Education, Children and Families	56%	£40,027	Councillor Griffiths
9	Convener – Finance and Resources	n/a	n/a	Councillor Watt
10	Convener - GRBV	56%	£40,027	Councillor Campbell
11	Licensing Board Convener	56%	£40,027	Councillor Young
12	Licensing Board Vice-Convener	44.8%	£32,022	Councillor Rust
13	Opposition Group Leader	56%	£40,027	Councillor Kumar
14	Opposition Group Leader	56%	£40,027	Councillor Lang
15	Opposition Group Leader	56%	£40,027	Councillor Whyte
16	Opposition Group Leader		£30,686	Councillor Booth

17	Opposition Group Leader		£30,686	Councillor Rae
18	Planning Convener	56%	£40,027	Councillor Dalglish
19	Regulatory Convener	56%	£40,027	Councillor Neil Ross
20	Convener or Vice-Convener of Integration Joint Board	56%	£40,027	Councillor Tim Pogson
21	Development Management Sub-Committee Convener	56%	£40,027	Councillor Osler
22	Licensing Sub-Committee Convener	56%	£40,027	Councillor Mowat
23	Vice-Convener of Education, Children and Families	44.8%	£32,022	Councillor Graham
Total			£733,826	Does not include Leader of the Council or Lord Provost
Maximum (24 senior Cllrs)			£955,455	Does not include Leader of the Council or Lord Provost
	LVJB – Vice - Convener	Set by statute	£26,797	Councillor Beal
	Standard rate	Set by statute	£25,982	