



SPT Members Remuneration and Expenses

Date of meeting 27 May 2022

Date of report 20 May 2022

Report by Chief Executive

1. Object of report

To advise the Partnership of the arrangements for SPT members' remuneration and reimbursement of expenses and, following consideration, to approve the payment of remuneration for the Chair, Vice Chair(s) and, if appropriate, the Chair of the Audit & Standards Committee.

2. Background

Historically, the appointed Chair and Vice Chair(s) of SPT have been remunerated for holding the position reflecting the importance of the role of a significant regional body. The current powers utilised, however, are those of the former SPTA which were transferred at the time of the creation of the RTP. The Partnership has previously agreed to apply the principles outlined in The Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004 (Remuneration) Regulations 2007 as they applied to the previous regional fire and police Joint Boards as the nearest comparator.

In practice, this means the RTP Chair is entitled to receive a total payment equal to 75% of the remuneration of the Leader of the highest banded council in the RTP area, and Vice Chair(s) receiving an amount equal to 75% of the Chair's remuneration.

For SPT therefore, the total payment made to the Chair, inclusive of any remuneration received from the respective council, is £44,039, and the Vice Chair(s) £33,029.

To date, no payment has been made to the Chair of the Audit & Standards Committee, although discussions as to whether this was appropriate have previously taken place. A review of constituent councils identified that the equivalent role was considered to be or held by a senior councillor, reflecting the additional responsibility.

3. Outline of proposals

It is proposed to continue with the previously approved remuneration arrangements for the Chair and Vice Chair(s). In addition, reflecting the importance and contribution of the Audit & Standards Committee, and the role of the appointed the Audit & Standards Committee Chair has in supporting SPT's governance arrangements, it is proposed that this role should be remunerated to a sum equivalent to 75% of the Vice Chair(s) – £24,772 inclusive of any payment paid by the respective council.

For information, the current basic councillor salary is £19,571, although some members may be nominated as senior councillors and therefore receive an enhanced councillor

remuneration. The remuneration paid by SPT is adjusted to reflect the actual salary paid by individual councils.

All members and substitutes are entitled to be reimbursed for actual expenses incurred, to maximum levels as outlined in the Members Expenses Handbook and reflect the levels determined centrally by the Scottish Government.

4. Partnership Action

The Partnership is recommended to:

- (a) approve the continuation of remuneration to the Chair and Vice Chair(s) as outlined; and
- (b) approve the payment of a Responsibility Allowance to the Audit & Standards Committee Chair as outlined.

5. Consequences

Policy consequences	<i>As outlined in the report.</i>
Legal consequences	<i>Complies with the principles of the Scottish Government guidance relating to previous regional bodies.</i>
Financial consequences	<i>Costs are fully budgeted.</i>
Personnel consequences	<i>None.</i>
Equalities consequences	<i>None.</i>
Risk consequences	<i>None.</i>

Name Neil Wylie
Title **Director of Finance
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Name Valerie Davidson
Title **Chief Executive**

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