

Remuneration report for the year ended 31 March 2022

1. Introduction

The Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 require larger local government bodies to prepare a remuneration report as part of the statement of accounts.

2. Allowance and Remuneration Arrangements

Councillors

Allowances are payable by councils to councillors and committee members under Part 3 of the Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 and The Local Government (Payments to Councillors) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012, which came into operation on 1 April 2012.

Guidance and determinations on Councillors' Allowances applicable from 1 April 2021 were issued by the Department for Communities on 8 March 2021 (Circular LG 07/2021). Details of the allowances paid to individual councillors are published on council websites.

Following local elections on 2 May 2019, 462 councillors were elected to the 11 new councils for a four year term. **XYZ** Council had X councillors in 2021/22.

Senior Employees

The remuneration of senior employees employed by the Council is determined by the Council in line with that determined by the National Joint Council (NJC) for Local Government Services. Senior employees are those staff who are members of the Executive Management Team/Senior Management Team.

Council appointments of employees are made in accordance with the Local Government Staff Commissions' Code of Procedures on Recruitment and Selection, which requires appointment to be on merit and on the basis of fair and open competition.

Unless otherwise stated below, the officials covered by this report hold appointments which are open-ended.

3. Allowances Paid to Councillors

The total amount paid to Councillors by way of allowances, under Part 3 of the Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 and the Local Government (Payments to Councillors) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012 was:

Table 1: Total Allowances paid to councillors [audited information]

	2021/22		2020/21	
Allowance	Total Allowances £	Number of Councillors receiving Allowance	Total Allowances £	Number of Councillors receiving Allowance
Basic Allowance				
Special Responsibility Allowance				
Chairperson/ Mayor Allowance				
Vice Chairperson/ Deputy Mayor Allowance				
Mileage Allowance				
Public Transport and Other Travel Incidentals				
Subsistence				
Courses/ Conferences visits (registration & joining fees)				
Dependants' Carers Allowance				
TOTAL ALLOWANCES				

Details of the allowances paid to individual councillors in 2021/22 are published on the council website at www.xyz.gov.uk/remunerationreport.

4. Remuneration of Senior Employees

The remuneration of senior employees covers the Executive Management Team/Senior Management Team. The following table provides details of the remuneration paid to senior employees:

Table 2: Remuneration (including salary) [audited information]

Officers	2021/22				2020/21			
	Salary (Full year equivalent in brackets where applicable)	Bonus Payments	Benefits in kind (to nearest £100)	Total	Salary (Full year equivalent in brackets where applicable)	Bonus Payments	Benefits in kind (to nearest £100)	Total
	£'000	£'000	£	£'000	£'000	£'000	£	£'000

Councils are required to disclose the relationship between the remuneration of the highest paid member of the Executive Management Team/Senior Management Team and the median remuneration of the Councils workforce.

The banded remuneration of the highest paid member of the Executive Management Team/Senior Management Team in the financial year 2021/22 was £xk - £yk. This was x times the median remuneration of the workforce, which was £x.

Table 3: Relationship between the remuneration of the highest paid member of the Executive Management Team/Senior Management Team and the median remuneration of the Councils workforce [audited information]

	2021/22 £'000	2020/21 £'000
Salary Band of Highest Paid member of the Executive Management Team/Senior Management Team		
Median Total Remuneration		
Ratio		

In 2021/22, x employees received remuneration in excess of the highest paid member of the Executive Management Team/Senior Management Team.

Total remuneration includes salary, bonus payments and benefits in kind.

Salary

“Salary” includes gross salary, overtime, and any gratia payments.

Bonus Payments

Bonus payments are based on performance levels attained and are made as part of the appraisal process. Bonuses relate to the performance in the year in which they become payable to the individual. The bonuses reported in 2021/22 relate to performance in 2021/22.

Benefits in Kind

The monetary value of benefits in kind covers any benefits provided by the employer and treated by HM Revenue and Customs as a taxable emolument.

5. Exit Packages for staff

The number of exit packages provided to all staff by the Council, together with total cost per band and total cost of the compulsory and other redundancies are set out in the table below:

Table 4: Exit Packages [audited information]

Severance Package Cost Band	2021/22				2020/21			
	Number of Compulsory Redundancies	Number of other departures agreed	Total Number of Exit Packages in each Cost Band	Total Cost of Packages in each Cost Band £'000	Number of Compulsory Redundancies	Number of other departures agreed	Total Number of Exit Packages in each Cost Band	Total Cost of Packages in each Cost Band £'000
£0 - £20,000								
£20,001- £40,000								
£40,001 £60,000								
£60,001 £80,000								
£80,001- £100,000								
£100,001 £150,000								
£150,001 £200,000								
Total								

Where an individual has a non-standard pension arrangement (e.g. accelerated accrual or membership of a Supplementary Scheme), this should be disclosed in the report.

6. Pension Benefits

The Local Government Pension Scheme (Northern Ireland) (the Scheme) which is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, which provides retirement benefits for council employees on a “career average revalued earnings” basis from 1 April 2015. Prior to that date benefits were built up on a “final salary” basis.

From 1 April 2015, a member builds up retirement pension at the rate of 1/49th pensionable pay for each year. Pension benefits in relation to membership between 1 April 2009 and 31 March 2015 were built up at the rate of 1/60th pensionable pay for each year of membership. There is no automatic lump sum provided in respect

of membership after 31 March 2009. Pension benefits in relation to any membership before 1 April 2009 were built up at the rate of 1/80th (pension) and 3/80ths (tax-free lump sum) of pensionable pay for each year of membership up to 31 March 2009. At retirement, members may give up some pension for additional lump sum, subject to HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) limits. The conversion rate is £12 additional lump sum for every £1 of pension given up.

Councillors have been able to join the Scheme since May 2011. The Scheme application is modified to reflect the fact that councillors hold an elected office. Councillor members have always accrued pension on a career average basis. Prior to 1 April 2015 pension was accrued at a rate of 1/60th and thereafter at a rate of 1/49th.

The Scheme is funded by contributions made by both employees/councillors and employers. Prior to 1 April 2009, a member's contribution rates were fixed at 6% of their pensionable remuneration (except for those who were entitled to contribute to the Scheme at 5% before 1 February 2003 and have remained in continuous employment). Tiered member contribution rates, determined by the whole-time equivalent rate of pay, were introduced from 1 April 2009. From 1 April 2015, the member contribution rates are determined on the actual rate of pay.

The ranges for the bands for tiered contribution rates are revised by the Department for Communities in April each year in accordance with the increase applied to a pension in payment. The bands, effective from 1 April 2021, were as follows:

Table 5: Employee Contribution Rates

Band	Range	Employee Contribution Rate
1	£0 - £15,000	5.5%
2	£15,0001 - £23,000	5.8%
3	£23,001 - £38,400	6.5%
4	£38,401 - £46,600	6.8%
5	£46,601 - £92,300	8.5%
6	More than £92,300	10.5%

Employers' contribution rates are determined by the fund's actuary every three years at the triennial valuation. A formal triennial actuarial valuation of the Fund as at 31 March 2019 was carried out in 2020/21 and set the employer contribution rates for the 3 years commencing 1 April 2020 as follows:

Table 6: Employer Contribution Rates

Year	Employer Contribution Rate
1 April 2020 – 31 March 2021	19.5%
1 April 2021 – 31 March 2022	19.5%
1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023	19.5%

The Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 were made on 27 June 2014 and The Local Government Pension Scheme (Amendment and Transitional Provisions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 were made on 30 June 2014. Both sets of regulations are effective from 1 April 2015

Councillors have only been able to join the Scheme since May 2011 and therefore have not accrued significant benefits thus far. However, the in-year pension contributions made by the Council for all councillors during 2021/22 was £x.

The value of pension benefits of the most senior management of the Council accrued during the year was as follows:

Table 7: Pension Benefits of senior staff in 2021/22 [audited information]

[illegible]

The Cash Equivalent Transfer Value (CETV)

This is the actuarially assessed capitalised value of the pension scheme benefits accrued by a member at a particular point in time. The benefits valued are the member's accrued benefits and any contingent spouse's pension payable from the scheme. It is a payment made by a pension scheme or arrangement to secure pension benefits in another pension scheme or arrangement when the member leaves a scheme and chooses to transfer the pension benefits they have accrued in their former scheme. The pension figures shown relate to the benefits that the individual has accrued as a consequence of their total membership of the pension scheme, not just their service in a senior capacity to which disclosure applies. CETVs are calculated in accordance with The Occupational Pension Schemes (Transfer Values) (Amendment) Regulations and do not take account of any actual or potential reduction to benefits resulting from Lifetime Allowance Tax which may be due when pension benefits are taken.

The real increase in the value of the CETV

This reflects the increase in CETV effectively funded by the employer. It does not include the increase in accrued pension due to inflation, contributions paid by the employee (including the value of any benefits transferred from another pension scheme or arrangement) and uses common market valuation factors for the start and end of the period. However, the real increase calculation uses common actuarial factors at the start and end of the period so that it disregards the effect of any changes in factors and focuses only on the increase that is funded by the employer.

Chief Executive
September 2022