



Local Government Elected Members (2010/11) (Except Auckland) Determination 2010

Pursuant to clause 6 of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002 and to the Remuneration Authority Act 1977, the Remuneration Authority makes the following determination (to which is appended an explanatory memorandum).

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Determination

- 1 Title**
This determination is the Local Government Elected Members (2010/11) (Except Auckland) Determination 2010.
- 2 Commencement**
This determination comes into force, for each of the local authorities and community boards specified in Schedules 1 and 2, on the day on which the successful candidates in the 2010 local body elections come into office under section 115 of the Local Electoral Act 2001.
- 3 Expiry**
This determination expires on the close of 30 June 2011.
- 4 Interpretation**
In this determination, unless the context otherwise requires,—
Act means the Local Government Act 2002
city council means a city council named in Part 2 of Schedule 2 of the Act and Schedule 2 of this determination
community board means a community board established under section 49 of the Act and named in Schedule 2 of this determination

district council means a district council named in Part 2 of Schedule 2 of the Act and Schedule 2 of this determination

expenses rules means a local authority's rules for paying expenses to a member of the local authority or its community boards that have been approved by the Remuneration Authority

hearing time has the meaning given to it in clause 8

local authority means a regional council, district council, or city council

member means a person who has been declared to be elected under the Local Electoral Act 2001 as,—

- (a) in relation to a regional council, a chairperson or other member of the council;
- (b) in relation to a district council or city council, a mayor or other member of the council;
- (c) in relation to a community board, a chairperson or other member of the board

regional council means a regional council named in Part 1 of Schedule 2 of the Act and Schedule 1 of this determination

resource consent hearing has the meaning given to it in clause 7

resource consent hearing fee means a fee payable in accordance with clause 9 for attending a resource consent hearing.

Regional councils

5 Remuneration, expenses, and allowances payable to members of regional councils

- (1) The remuneration, expenses, and allowances payable to the members of a regional council are—
 - (a) those set out in Schedule 1; and
 - (b) expenses and allowances payable in accordance with clauses 10 and 12 to 15; and
 - (c) resource consent hearing fees.
- (2) However, the chairperson of a regional council is not entitled to be paid resource consent hearing fees.

District councils, city councils, and community boards

6 Remuneration, expenses, and allowances payable to members of district councils, city councils, and community boards

- (1) The remuneration, expenses, and allowances payable to the members of a district council, city council, or community board are—
 - (a) those set out in Schedule 2; and
 - (b) expenses and allowances payable in accordance with clauses 10 and 12 to 15; and
 - (c) resource consent hearing fees.
- (2) However, the mayor of a district council, the mayor of a city council, and the chairperson of a community board is not entitled to be paid resource consent hearing fees.

Resource consent hearing fees

7 Meaning of resource consent hearing

- (1) In this determination, **resource consent hearing** means—
 - (a) a hearing arising from a resource consent application made under section 88 of the Resource Management Act 1991; or
 - (b) a hearing arising from a notice of requirement given under section 168 of the Resource Management Act 1991; or
 - (c) a formal pre-hearing meeting held under section 99 of the Resource Management Act 1991 as a preliminary step before a hearing referred to in paragraph (a) or (b); or
 - (d) a hearing relating to a private change in a district or regional plan or policy statement requested under clause 21 of Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991; or
 - (e) a mediation hearing in the Environment Court as part of an appeal from a decision of a local authority; or
 - (f) a hearing on an objection against a charge fixed by the local authority under section 36 of the Resource Management Act 1991.

- (2) In this determination, **resource consent hearing** does not include—
- (a) a hearing of submissions as part of the process of preparation of a district or regional plan or policy statement; or
 - (b) a hearing relating to a change or variation in a district or regional plan or policy statement requested by the local authority; or
 - (c) a hearing relating to a notice of requirement initiated by the local authority; or
 - (d) any other hearing not specified in subclause (1).

8 Meaning of hearing time

- (1) In this determination, **hearing time**—
- (a) means the time spent by a member in hearing a resource consent hearing; and
 - (b) includes the time spent by a member—
 - (i) in formal committee deliberations; and
 - (ii) at a formal pre-hearing meeting held under section 99 of the Resource Management Act 1991; and
 - (iii) at a formal site inspection as part of a group inspection or as part of a pre-hearing meeting; and
 - (iv) in determining a notified resource consent application where a formal hearing does not take place.
- (2) In this determination, **hearing time** does not include time spent by a member—
- (a) preparing for a resource consent hearing; or
 - (b) inspecting a site, except where subclause (1)(b)(iii) applies.

9 Fees for attending resource consent hearing

- (1) A member who acts as the chairperson of a resource consent hearing is entitled to be paid a fee of \$85 per hour of hearing time.
- (2) A member who is not the chairperson of a resource consent hearing is entitled to be paid a fee of \$68 per hour of hearing time.

- (3) For any period of hearing time that is less than 1 hour, the fee must be apportioned accordingly.
- (4) Despite subclauses (1) and (2), a resource consent hearing fee for a formal pre-hearing meeting held under section 99 of the Resource Management Act 1991 may be paid to only 1 member.
- (5) This clause is subject to clauses 5(2) and 6(2).

Expenses

10 Expenses may be reimbursed in accordance with expenses rules

A local authority may reimburse expenses in accordance with the expenses rules to the following persons:

- (a) its members; and
- (b) in the case of a district council or a city council, the members of community boards situated within its district.

11 Public may inspect expenses rules

A local authority must, during the hours that its offices are open to the public, allow members of the public to inspect its expenses rules.

Allowances

12 Allowances may be paid in accordance with rules approved by Remuneration Authority

A local authority may pay allowances in accordance with rules approved by the Remuneration Authority to the following persons:

- (a) its members; and
- (b) in the case of a district council or a city council, the members of community boards situated within its district.

13 Vehicle mileage allowance

- (1) A local authority may, in accordance with this clause, pay a vehicle mileage allowance to the following persons if they are not otherwise provided with a vehicle by the local authority:

- (a) its members; and
 - (b) in the case of a district council or a city council, the members of community boards situated within its district.
- (2) The local authority may pay a vehicle mileage allowance for travel by the member, including travel to and from the member's residence, if the member—
- (a) travels—
 - (i) in his or her own vehicle; and
 - (ii) by the most direct route reasonable in the circumstances; and
 - (b) is on the local authority's business.
- (3) The maximum amount of the allowance is \$0.70 per kilometre.

14 Travel time allowance

- (1) A local authority may, in accordance with this clause, pay a travel time allowance to the following persons:
- (a) its members; and
 - (b) in the case of a district council or a city council, the members of community boards situated within its district.
- (2) The local authority may pay a travel time allowance for travel by the member, including travel to and from the member's residence, if the travel is—
- (a) on the local authority's business; and
 - (b) by the quickest form of transport reasonable in the circumstances.
- (3) The maximum amount of the allowance is \$15.00 per hour.
- (4) However, a member who can properly be regarded as being a full-time member is not entitled to be paid a travel time allowance.

15 Communications allowance

- (1) A local authority may, in accordance with this clause, pay a communications allowance to its members, and, in the case of a district council or a city council, the members of community boards situated within its district, towards the expenses of all or any of the following:

- (a) a mobile telephone:
 - (b) a computer or ancillary equipment:
 - (c) an Internet connection.
- (2) The maximum amount of the allowance is \$500 for the period beginning with the commencement of this determination and ending on the close of 30 June 2011.
- (3) A communications allowance is not payable to the extent that the local authority provides the member with any of the following:
- (a) the use of a mobile telephone:
 - (b) the use of a computer or ancillary equipment:
 - (c) an Internet connection.

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Schedule 1
Remuneration, expenses, and allowances
of members of regional councils
Bay of Plenty Regional Council

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Chair	122,085
Councillor	36,800
Chair car	
Full private use	

Hawke's Bay Regional Council

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Chair	105,715
Councillor	34,700
Chair car	
Full private use	

Manawatu–Wanganui Regional Council

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Chair	112,635
Councillor	23,040

Chair car
Full private use

Northland Regional Council

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Chair	103,150
Councillor	41,650

Chair car
Full private use

Otago Regional Council

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Chair	113,652
Councillor	29,100

Chair car
Full private use

Southland Regional Council

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Chair	85,100
Councillor	19,700

Chair car
N/A

Taranaki Regional Council

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Chair	83,413
Councillor	21,800

Chair car
Full private use

Waikato Regional Council

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Chair	137,228
Councillor	34,650
Chair car	
Full private use	

Wellington Regional Council

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Chair	147,838
Councillor	43,000
Chair car	
Full private use	

West Coast Regional Council

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Chair	66,990
Councillor	20,800
Chair car	
N/A	

cl 6

Schedule 2
Remuneration, expenses, and allowances
of members of district councils, city
councils, and community boards
Ashburton District Council

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Mayor	79,200
Councillor	14,030
Mayoral car	
N/A	

Methven Community Board

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Member	1,660

Buller District Council

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Mayor	62,300
Councillor	11,350

Mayoral car
N/A

Inangahua Community Board

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Member	2,420

Carterton District Council

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Mayor	55,200
Councillor	11,300

Mayoral car
N/A

Central Hawke's Bay District Council

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Mayor	67,900
Councillor	17,400

Mayoral car
N/A

Central Otago District Council

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Mayor	70,818
Councillor	4,900

Mayoral car
Full private use

*Cromwell Community Board
Vincent Community Board*

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Member	6,000

*Maniototo Community Board
Roxburgh Community Board*

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Member	3,050

Chatham Islands Council

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Mayor	44,600
Councillor	5,750

Mayoral car
N/A

Christchurch City Council

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Mayor	159,527
Councillor	69,000

Mayoral car
Full private use

*Akaroa/Wairewa Community Board
Lyttelton/Mt Herbert Community Board*

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Member	10,100

*Burwood/Pegasus Community Board
Fendalton/Waimairi Community Board
Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board
Riccarton/Wigram Community Board
Shirley/Papanui Community Board
Spreydon/Heathcote Community Board*

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Member	15,300

Clutha District Council

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Mayor	74,500
Councillor	5,800

Mayoral car
N/A

*Lawrence/Tuapeka Community Board
West Otago Community Board*

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Member	3,300

Dunedin City Council

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Mayor	131,516
Councillor	32,500

Mayoral car
Full private use

*Chalmers Community Board
Mosgiel Taieri Community Board
Otago Peninsula Community Board
Saddle Hill Community Board
Strath Taieri Community Board
Waikouaiti Coast Community Board*

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Member	7,350

Far North District Council

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Mayor	103,957
Councillor	34,600

Mayoral car

Private use

*Eastern Community Board
Northern Community Board
Western Community Board*

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Member	9,200

Gisborne District Council

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Mayor	102,853
Councillor	22,500

Mayoral car

Full private use

Gore District Council

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Mayor	58,346
Councillor	8,600

Mayoral car

Full private use

Mataura Community Board

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Member	800

Grey District Council

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Mayor	64,700
Councillor	13,300

Mayoral car
N/A

Hamilton City Council

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Mayor	134,107
Councillor	56,300

Mayoral car
Full private use

Hastings District Council

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Mayor	104,857
Councillor	24,000

Mayoral car
Private use

Hastings District Rural Community Board

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Member	5,100

Hauraki District Council

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Mayor	67,040
Councillor	10,100

Mayoral car
Full private use

Horowhenua District Council

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Mayor	78,300
Councillor	14,640

Mayoral car
N/A

Foxton Community Board

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Member	4,600

Hurunui District Council

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Mayor	65,700
Councillor	11,650

Mayoral car
N/A

Hanmer Springs Community Board

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Member	3,450

Hutt City Council

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Mayor	111,554
Councillor	33,500

Mayoral car
Full private use

*Eastbourne Community Board
Petone Community Board
Wainuiomata Community Board*

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Member	5,400

Invercargill City Council

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Mayor	88,037
Councillor	18,700

Mayoral car
 Full private use

Bluff Community Board

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Member	3,450

Kaikoura District Council

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Mayor	47,880
Councillor	12,600

Mayoral car
 N/A

Kaipara District Council

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Mayor	72,600
Councillor	20,600

Mayoral car
 N/A

Kapiti Coast District Council

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Mayor	87,051
Councillor	18,800

Mayoral car
 Full private use

Otaki Community Board
Paraparaumu/Raumati Community Board
Waikanae Community Board

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Member	5,800

Paekakariki Community Board

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Member	3,500

Kawerau District Council

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Mayor	57,167
Councillor	9,100

Mayoral car
N/A

Mackenzie District Council

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Mayor	52,900
Councillor	12,500

Mayoral car
N/A

*Fairlie Community Board
Tekapo Community Board
Twizel Community Board*

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Member	1,500

Manawatu District Council

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Mayor	78,300
Councillor	19,000

Mayoral car
Mayoral use only

Marlborough District Council

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Mayor	102,023
Councillor	20,200

Mayoral car
Full private use

Masterton District Council

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Mayor	74,500
Councillor	16,400

Mayoral car
N/A

Matamata–Piako District Council

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Mayor	74,957
Councillor	16,650

Mayoral car
Full private use

*Matamata Community Board
Morrinsville Community Board
Te Aroha Community Board*

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Member	3,750

Napier City Council

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Mayor	99,308
Councillor	24,800

Mayoral car
Private use

Nelson City Council

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Mayor	100,283
Councillor	24,000

Mayoral car
Full private use

New Plymouth District Council

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Mayor	111,600
Councillor	25,700

Mayoral car
N/A

*Clifton Community Board
Inglewood Community Board
Kaitake Community Board
Waitara Community Board*

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Member	5,650

Opotiki District Council

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Mayor	57,200
Councillor	13,600

Mayoral car
N/A

Coast Community Board

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Member	4,400

Otorohanga District Council

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Mayor	58,500
Councillor	9,500

Mayoral car
N/A

Kawhia Community Board

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Member	1,350

Otorohanga Community Board

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Member	6,700

Palmerston North City Council

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Mayor	103,699
Councillor	27,700

Mayoral car
Full private use

Porirua City Council

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Mayor	93,294
Councillor	21,000

Mayoral car
Full private use

Queenstown Lakes District Council

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Mayor	91,900
Councillor	22,400

Mayoral car
N/A

Wanaka Community Board

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Member	15,900

Rangitikei District Council

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Mayor	68,500
Councillor	13,600

Mayoral car
N/A

*Ratana Community Board
Taihape Community Board*

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Member	2,030

Rotorua District Council

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Mayor	103,688
Councillor	29,000

Mayoral car
Private use

Rotorua Lakes Community Board

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Member	Nil

Ruapehu District Council

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Mayor	67,300
Councillor	4,000

Mayoral car
N/A

*National Park Community Board
Waimarino–Waiouru Community Board*

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Member	1,750

Selwyn District Council

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Mayor	91,700
Councillor	25,700

Mayoral car

N/A

*Malvern Area Community Board
Selwyn Central Community Board*

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Member	7,280

South Taranaki District Council

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Mayor	77,590
Councillor	11,000

Mayoral car

Full private use

*Egmont Plains Community Board
Eltham Community Board
Hawera–Tangahoe Community Board
Patea Community Board*

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Member	4,150

South Waikato District Council

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Mayor	68,983
Councillor	15,100

Mayoral car

Full private use

Tirau Community Board

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Member	1,900

South Wairarapa District Council

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Mayor	59,900
Councillor	10,400

Mayoral car
Mayoral use only

*Featherston Community Board
Greytown Community Board
Martinborough Community Board*

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Member	1,160

Southland District Council

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Mayor	87,500
Councillor	15,300

Mayoral car
Mayoral use only

*Balfour Community Board
Lumsden Community Board
Riversdale Community Board
Wyndham Community Board*

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Member	200

*Edendale Community Board
Wallacetown Community Board*

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Member	400

Riverton Community Board

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Member	2,800

Stewart Island Community Board

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Member	800

Te Anau Community Board

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Member	4,100

Tuatapere Community Board

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Member	1,100

*Wallace Community Board
Winton Community Board*

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Member	2,700

Stratford District Council

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Mayor	58,500
Councillor	10,750

Mayoral car
N/A

Tararua District Council

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Mayor	72,900
Councillor	12,100

Mayoral car
N/A

*Dannevirke Community Board
Eketahuna Community Board*

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Member	3,240

Tasman District Council

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Mayor	101,441
Councillor	21,500

Mayoral car
Full private use

*Golden Bay Community Board
Motueka Community Board*

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Member	4,800

Taupo District Council

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Mayor	84,427
Councillor	16,300

Mayoral car
Full private use

Turangi/Tongariro Community Board

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Member	9,000

Tauranga City Council

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Mayor	121,940
Councillor	55,000

Mayoral car
Full private use

Thames–Coromandel District Council

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Mayor	81,266
Councillor	22,650

Mayoral car
Full private use

*Coromandel/Colville Community Board
Mercury Bay Community Board
Tairua/Pauanui Community Board
Thames Community Board
Whangamata Community Board*

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Member	5,500

Timaru District Council

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Mayor	85,904
Councillor	18,800

Mayoral car
Full private use

*Geraldine Community Board
Pleasant Point Community Board
Temuka Community Board*

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Member	3,350

Upper Hutt City Council

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Mayor	84,000
Councillor	19,400

Mayoral car
Mayoral use only

Waikato District Council

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Mayor	96,000
Councillor	18,600

Mayoral car
Mayoral use only

*Huntly Community Board
Ngaruawahia Community Board
Onewhero/Tuakau Community Board
Raglan Community Board*

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Member	2,200

Taupiri Community Board

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Member	540

Waimakariri District Council

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Mayor	92,700
Councillor	22,400

Mayoral car
N/A

Kaiapoi Community Board

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Member	6,100

Waimate District Council

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Mayor	57,800
Councillor	8,400

Mayoral car
N/A

Waipa District Council

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Mayor	85,748
Councillor	19,100

Mayoral car
Full private use

*Cambridge Community Board
Te Awamutu Community Board*

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Member	5,800

Wairoa District Council

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Mayor	60,700
Councillor	18,200

Mayoral car
N/A

Waitaki District Council

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Mayor	76,900
Councillor	14,100

Mayoral car
Mayoral use only

*Ahuriri Community Board
Waihemo Community Board*

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Member	5,200

Waitomo District Council

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Mayor	61,400
Councillor	19,100

Mayoral car
N/A

Wanganui District Council

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Mayor	85,142
Councillor	20,500

Mayoral car
Full private use

Wanganui Rural Community Board

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Member	3,600

Wellington City Council

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Mayor	159,100
Councillor	55,400

Mayoral car
Mayoral use only

Makara/Ohariu Community Board

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Member	4,500

Tawa Community Board

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Member	7,100

Western Bay of Plenty District Council

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Mayor	87,617
Councillor	18,200

Mayoral car
Full private use

Katikati Community Board
Omokoroa Community Board
Te Puke Community Board
Waihi Beach Community Board

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Member	2,850

Maketu Community Board

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Member	2,150

Westland District Council

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Mayor	60,500
Councillor	8,600

Mayoral car
N/A

Whakatane District Council

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Mayor	84,700
Councillor	20,000

Mayoral car
N/A

Murupara Community Board
Ohope Beach Community Board
Rangitaiki Community Board
Taneatua Community Board
Whakatane Community Board

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Member	2,200

Whangarei District Council

Office	Annual salary (\$)
Mayor	112,600
Councillor	32,000

Mayoral car

N/A

Dated at Wellington this 11th day of August 2010.

M Wintringham,
Chairman.

J Errington,
Member.

A Foulkes,
Member.

Explanatory memorandum

This memorandum is not part of the determination, but is intended to indicate its general effect.

This determination sets the remuneration of the mayors of district and city councils, the chairs of regional councils, and councillors and community board members for the period from the declaration of the results of the 2010 local authority elections until the establishment of the committee structures of the newly elected councils.

This determination does not include the Auckland Council or the local boards established under the Local Government (Auckland Council) Act 2009. The remuneration of the elected representatives of the new local government structure for Auckland was established in the Local Government Elected Members (2010/11) (Auckland Council and Local Boards) Determination 2010.

The remuneration of mayors and regional council chairs will remain as set out in this determination until 30 June 2011. The remuner-

ation of councillors and community board members, for the same period, will be no less than the amounts specified in this determination. Therefore, those standing for elected office in this year's local authority elections can do so with certainty about the minimum remuneration they will receive if elected.

The remuneration of councillors and community board members is set at around 80% of the pre-election remuneration for the same positions. This is the practice adopted by the Remuneration Authority (the **Authority**) in previous election years, for 2 main reasons.

First, it would be problematic to reduce the remuneration of councillors or community board members once the organisational structure of a local authority had been decided after the election. An elected member so affected could reasonably claim to have been unfairly treated, having stood for election on the basis of one rate of remuneration and, after the election, being faced with a 3-year term on a lower rate.

Secondly, in some councils, elected members are paid in part through fixed remuneration, and in part through meeting fees. Setting the fixed component of elected members' remuneration at a low initial rate provides councils with the opportunity to recommend a meeting fee regime to the Authority, without the consequence of reducing the fixed component of their remuneration.

For these reasons a conservative initial level of remuneration has been set by the Authority in this determination.

Another advantage of this approach is that it provides an incentive for councils to address and finalise their structures soon after the election. Prior to that process, the Authority will notify each local authority of the sum of money available (the **governance pool**) to fund the remuneration of the appointees to the new structures. After receiving and considering recommendations from each local authority on the allocation of this pool, the Authority will issue an amending determination for 2010/2011. This will set the remuneration for each position in the new structure.

That amending determination will also provide an increase in the remuneration for those in basic councillor and community board positions, in most cases close to the pre-election levels, provided that there are neither radical changes in councils' structures, nor changes in the mix of fixed remuneration and meeting fees.

This determination attempts to strike a balance between recognising the increasing demands on, and expectations of, the mayors and regional council chairs over the last 5 or more years, and being fair to the ratepayers who meet the cost of their elected members' pay.

In 2009 and 2010, the Authority conducted an in-depth review of the setting of mayors' and regional council chairs' remuneration. This included independent assessment of the job sizes for selected mayor and chair positions, as well as of the time involved in carrying out the responsibilities of their offices. The review confirmed that the responsibilities and time commitment of mayors and regional council chairs have grown disproportionately to those of other local government elected members, particularly since the Local Government Act 2002 came into effect. The results of this review are reflected in the levels of mayors' and chairs' remuneration contained in this determination.

At the same time, many local authorities are struggling to hold rates increases to a manageable size, and many of those paying the rates are themselves under financial pressure.

Furthermore, an amendment made to the Remuneration Authority Act 1977 in 2009 requires the Authority to take account of countervailing economic conditions, and also provides that, in taking account of those conditions, it may set remuneration at a rate lower than it might otherwise have done.

For these reasons, the level of remuneration for mayors and regional council chairs has been set lower than the Authority might otherwise have determined. It is also unlikely that the governance pools for the remuneration of local government elected members, from the establishment of the new structures following the election until 30 June 2011, will provide for any increase in the remuneration of elected representatives over 2009/10, other than for mayors and regional council chairs.

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