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TUESDAY, 16 MARCH 2021

TO: ALL MEMBERS OF THE DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE

I HEREBY SUMMON YOU TO ATTEND A **VIRTUAL** MEETING OF THE **DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE** WHICH WILL BE HELD IN **AT 10.00 AM, ON TUESDAY, 23RD MARCH, 2021** FOR THE TRANSACTION OF THE BUSINESS OUTLINED ON THE ATTACHED AGENDA

Wendy Walters

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Democratic Officer:	Rhian Lloyd
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Wendy Walters Prif Weithredwr, *Chief Executive*,
Neuadd y Sir, Caerfyrddin. SA31 1JP
County Hall, Carmarthen. SA31 1JP

<p>DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP – 5 MEMBERS</p>

PLAID CYMRU GROUP 3 MEMBERS

1. Councillor Tyssul Evans [Vice-Chair]
2. Councillor Emlyn Schiavone
3. Councillor Dai Thomas

LABOUR GROUP 1 MEMBER

1. Councillor Rob James [Chair]

INDEPENDENT GROUP 1 MEMBER

1. Councillor Irfon Jones

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DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE 23RD MARCH 2021

DEMOCRATIC PROCESS – NEW WAYS OF WORKING

RECOMMENDATIONS / KEY DECISIONS REQUIRED:

To establish a Task and Finish Group to recommend to Council the preferred New Way of Working for the Democratic Services function.

REASONS:

As a result of the Covid19 pandemic the way we convene democratic meetings has changed significantly, as has the way we support our Elected Members in their Councillor role.

Whilst the Authority is currently holding all Democratic Meetings virtually, it is now time to consider how the Democratic Process will operate in the future, be that a return to full physical attendance (once restrictions are lifted), a hybrid approach or a continuance of virtual meetings only.

It is also necessary to identify what how and what support elected members require and how this can be delivered going forward, (to include required office administrative space and locations).

Scrutiny Committee consulted	Not applicable
Exec Board Decision Required	NO
Council Decision Required	Not at this stage.

Relevant portfolio holder:- N/A

Directorate	Chief Executive's	Tel Nos.
Name of Head of Service: Linda Rees Jones	Designations: Head of Administration & Law	01267 224012 LRJ 01267 224026 GM
Report Author: Gaynor Morgan	Head of Democratic Services	E Mail Addresses: gmorgan@cararthenshire.gov.uk

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE
23RD MARCH 2021

DEMOCRATIC PROCESS
– NEW WAYS OF WORKING

Due to the Covid19 pandemic, the Authority has transformed its way of working. Work completed prior to the current pandemic has put the council in a strong position with the technology already in place to support agile and home working. As a result, offices are now largely empty across the estate with only a small number of staff accessing offices on a regular basis. Democratic meetings are held remotely so that normal Council business can continue.

Going forward the Authority is looking at options to collaborate with public sector partners, and acknowledges that it must transform its working practices and consider how we work and the building space we require.

A central part of this change is to look at how the Democratic Process will operate in the future, this includes how and what support elected members require to do their day to day role and how democratic meetings will operate.

The Democratic Services Committee is the Committee deemed with supporting the work of elected members and one of its functions is to review periodically the level of support provided to members to carry out their duties and bring forward proposals to the full council as to what is considered to be reasonable.. The Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales makes it clear that it expects each elected member to have ready use of e-mail services, and electronic access to appropriate information via an internet connection, the necessary provision for a member to be in proper contact with council services and to maintain contact with those they represent, this included access to services outside of office hours i.e. contact forms and service information as available on our website.

The Authority is starting a process of consultation on how the Authority will operate in the future and in order to ensure that elected members are driving the new way of working for the democratic services function , it is suggested that the Democratic Services Committee undertake a Task and Finish review of members' requirements. In order to have as full a picture as possible it is further suggested that each Group Leader is asked to contribute to the Task and Finish Review so that the views of each political Group can be fed back into the final report to Council.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

NO.

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report :

Signed: Linda Rees Jones, Head of Administration & Law

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
YES	YES	NOT AT THIS STAGE	NOT AT THIS STAGE	NOT AT THIS STAGE	NOT AT THIS STAGE	NOT AT THIS STAGE

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

- The project will look to compliment and support key council priorities and objectives including regeneration, economic development and respond to the council's financial challenges.
- A draft project delivery plan has been developed which sets out key priorities for the project and timelines for implementation. This plan has been aligned with the objectives of the authority's Accommodation Strategy, Digital Transformation Strategy, Ten Towns Initiative, Economic Development Strategy.

Legal

Any decision taken will need to take into account the requirements of relevant legislation including the Local Government and Elections Wales Act 2021.

Finance

- There may be additional costs incurred in updating technology going forward depending on the outcome of the T&F review

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Signed: Linda Rees Jones, Head of Administration & Law

1.Scrutiny Committee Not applicable

2.Local Member(s) Not applicable

3.Community / Town Council Not applicable

4.Relevant Partners Not applicable

5.Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations Not applicable

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information

List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW:

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection

DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE

23RD MARCH 2021

INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES (IRPW) ANNUAL REPORT (FEBRUARY, 2021)

Recommendations / key decisions required:

The Democratic Services Committee is asked to note the determinations by the IRPW for 2021/22, as detailed within the report.

Reasons:

The Local Authorities (Allowances for Members) (Wales) Regulations 2007 provided for the establishment of the Independent Remuneration IRPW for Wales (IRPW) to review councillors' allowances in Wales. The IRPW was established in January 2008 to prescribe the maximum levels of allowances payable by County and County Borough Councils in Wales. Following the approval of The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 the IRPW's remit has been extended to National Parks and Fire and Rescue Authorities and Town and Community Councils in Wales and the IRPW can also now prescribe the levels of allowances / salaries to be paid rather than recommend the maximum levels of allowances that could be paid.

Council at its meeting held on the 17th April 2013 agreed that the Committee be consulted on the implementation of reports issued by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales in respect of members allowances etc.

Scrutiny committee consulted	Not Applicable
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Exec Board Decision Required	NO
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Council Decision Required	NO
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EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER: Cllr Emlyn Dole – Leader/Cllr David Jenkins – Executive Board Member for Resources

Directorate		Tel Nos. 01267 224010
Name of Head of Service:	Designations:	E Mail Addresses:
Linda Rees Jones	Head of Administration & Law	GMorgan@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
Report Author:		
Gaynor Morgan	Head of Democratic Services	

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE

23RD MARCH 2021

INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES (IRPW) ANNUAL REPORT (FEBRUARY, 2021)

The IRPW published its Annual Report in February 2021 and re-affirmed that there were currently no options relating to levels of remuneration by principal councils that required a decision by full council.

The IRPW determinations will be included within the Councillors' and Co-opted Members' Salaries and Allowances Scheme for 2021/22, which will be considered at the Annual Meeting of Council on the 19th May 2021.

The main determinations/changes made by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales for 2021/22, are as follows (salaries payable from 1st April 2021) : -

- an increase in Basic Salaries of £150, bringing the basic salary for Councillors up to £14,368 (No additional increase will be paid to Senior and Civic Salary holders, they will only receive the basic salary element increase)
- the Panel has made a significant change to the Reimbursement of Costs of Care determination. It has removed the £403 monthly cap and replaced this with arrangements which allow a Councillor and/or Co-opted Member to seek their full costs of care to be reimbursed fully for formal carers and up to a maximum rate equivalent to the real Living Wage for informal carers
- An increase in the daily rate paid to co-opted members of £12 per day.

**DETAILED
REPORT
ATTACHED ?**

YES

Appendix 1 – IRPW Annual Report for 2021-22

Appendix 2 –Determinations for 2021-22 (Annex 1 to the main report)

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors/Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report :

Signed: Linda Rees Jones
Gaynor Morgan

Head of Administration and Law
Head of Democratic Services

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
NONE	YES	YES	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE

1. Legal

The Democratic Services Committee is consulted, in accordance with its Terms of Reference, on the implementation of reports issued by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales.

The draft IRPW report for February 2021 was considered by the Committee in December 2020 and comments made as part of the consultation process.

When the Panel's Annual Report is issued, Principal Councils must comply with the statutory requirements and apply all the relevant determinations. The proper officer of the Council must put in place mechanisms for all eligible council members to receive payments as determined by the Panel. There are currently no options relating to levels of remuneration by principal councils that require a decision by full council. Levels of payments to which members are entitled cannot be varied by a vote of a Principal Council.

2. Finance

The IRPW draft determinations for 2021/22 will result in an additional budget requirement of £11,100. This will be validated when setting the budget for the forthcoming year.

There will also be additional costs based on the increase to the co-opted Members' daily fee.

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Signed: Linda Rees Jones
Gaynor Morgan

Head of Administration and Law
Head of Democratic Services

1. Scrutiny Committee

Not Applicable

2. Local Member(s)

Not Applicable

3. Community / Town Council

The IRPW circulated its draft report to all Fire and Rescue Authorities, National Park Authorities and Town & Community Councils, for their observations.

4. Relevant Partners

Not Applicable

5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations

Not Applicable

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information
List of Background Papers used in of the preparation this report:

THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW:-

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
IRPW Draft Report		https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2020-09/independent-remuneration-panel-draft-annual-report-2021-2022.pdf
Local Government Wales Measure		http://www.legislation.gov.uk/mwa/2011/4/contents/enacted



Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales

Annual Report

February 2021

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ANNUAL REPORT 2021/2022

FOREWORD

As with very many organisations the coronavirus pandemic has impacted on the work of the Panel. However, we have continued to meet regularly to carry out our statutory function via Microsoft Teams.

We completely understand the implications that the pandemic has had and continues to have on all local authorities in Wales, so the proposals contained in the draft Annual Report published on the 28 September 2020 limited the extent of the changes to our Remuneration Framework 2021/2022. We consider that it is important that the payments to elected members of principal councils should not fall further behind average earnings so the modest increases in basic and senior salaries (with appropriate adjustments for members of other organisations) set out in the draft Report have not changed.

We received 39 responses to the consultation on the draft Report and are grateful to those organisations and individuals who provided comments. The majority of the responses indicated that the proposals were not inappropriate in the prevailing circumstances. Some suggested that the increases were insufficient and conversely others took the view that there should be no increases. We have acknowledged each of the responses and answered all of the queries that were raised.

The term of office of Greg Owens ended on 31 December 2020. Greg had been a long standing member and the vice chair since 2016. We wish to record our appreciation of the considerable contribution that Greg made to the work of the Panel during his membership.

John Bader
Chair

Panel Membership
John Bader, Chair
Saz Willey, Vice Chair
Claire Sharp
Joe Stockley

Detailed information about the members can be found on the website: [Panel website](#)

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Introduction

This is the thirteenth Annual Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (the Panel), and the tenth published under the requirements of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 (as amended).

1. Although this Report is in respect of the Panel's determinations for 2021/2022 our consideration has inevitably been influenced by the impact of the coronavirus pandemic. The ongoing issues affect the operation of all local authorities and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future.
2. As with all the Panel's Annual Reports the determinations on member remuneration are underpinned by the principles set out in Section 1. In May 2020 we published a [Supplementary Report](#) that set out specific principles relating to the provision of financial support for care needs. These are incorporated in Section 10 and will be included in future Annual Reports.
3. The Panel has consistently expressed its view that maintaining the democratic values of local governance cannot be cost free. Members of local authorities (including co-opted and appointed members) are there to represent the interests of local people, undertake the governance of local communities, and secure appropriate value for money public services for local tax-payers through effective scrutiny for which they are accountable to their community. These are significant and important tasks for members of the relevant authorities within the Panel's remit. Payments to members are made available to encourage a diversity of willing and able people to undertake local governance through their elected, appointed or co-opted roles.
4. In determining the level of payments to members of local authorities, the Panel seeks to meet the principle of 'acceptability' by ensuring that these are not 'so great as to require a significant diversion of resources from key council priorities'. But Section 142(8) of the Measure is more explicit on 'affordability' when it states that "when setting an amount¹, the Panel must take into account what it considers will be the likely financial impact of doing so on relevant authorities". The Panel acknowledges that the issue of affordability – in relation both to relevant authorities' service budgets and to the electorate's disposable incomes – is likely to impact on the public perception of any increases to members' payments. It is therefore a matter of balancing issues of affordability and public perception with fairness to members for their time, worth and responsibility.
5. The Panel originally set the basic salary of elected members of principal councils at three-fifths of the All Wales Median Salary and senior salaries were set at multiples of this annual median salary. In setting these salaries the Panel recognised that there was an unpaid public service contribution.
6. The financial constraints on the public sector and particularly on local authorities over many years have meant that the link with average Welsh earnings has not been maintained. The Panel considers that this has undervalued the worth of elected members. To minimise further erosion in relation to average earnings the Panel proposes to increase the basic annual salary by £150. Other payments that are based on the basic salary will be adjusted accordingly.

7. Payments for members of National Park Authorities and Fire and Rescue Authorities will increase as a result of the uplift proposed for principal councils. One other change proposed for these authorities is to remove the limitation on the number of senior salaries that can be paid.
8. The payment information provided by relevant authorities show that still very few members are utilising the provision in the framework for financial support in respect of care. We reiterate the importance that Democratic Services Committees should encourage and facilitate greater use of this element of our framework so that members concerned are not financially disadvantaged. We are proposing significant changes regarding the costs of care which are set out in Section 10.
9. The Panel has continued to contribute wherever possible to enhancing diversity in local government in Wales through its determinations. The Panel produces leaflets for prospective candidates on the remuneration of members of councils. We are pleased that several councils include this leaflet on their websites. In addition we have produced a short film [Ever thought about being a Welsh councillor?](#) This can be viewed on our website. The Welsh Government has an initiative to increase diversity in democracy and the Panel is engaged in supporting this wherever possible within its remit.
10. We continue to engage with community and town councils and have met with numerous representative groups. Unfortunately the extent of engagement has been curtailed as a consequence of COVID 19. For 2021/2022 we are not proposing any specific changes to payments in respect of community and town councils. However, we intend to undertake a major review of our current framework for this sector during 2021 in readiness for implementation following the elections in 2022. We intend to consult and work with the sector in the process of the review.
11. The Panel's Regulations have been updated to reflect changes to the remit (see Annex 2).
12. One issue that has arisen again, particularly in the context of the pandemic lockdown, is the action of the Council in respect of the Reports of the Panel which it receives. When the Panel's Annual Report is issued, principal councils must comply with the statutory requirements and apply all the relevant determinations. The proper officer of the council must put in place mechanisms for all eligible council members to receive payments as determined by the Panel. There are currently no options relating to levels of remuneration by principal councils that require a decision by full council. Levels of payments to which members are entitled cannot be varied by a vote of a principal council.
13. Only an individual member may communicate in writing to the proper officer if, as *an individual*, they wish to decline all or part of the payment to which they are entitled.

14. How the Panel's Annual Report is formally received or noted by full council is not a matter that is within the Panel's statutory remit. Individual constitutions or standing orders of councils may vary as to matters that may be submitted to full council for consideration. It is for each council to decide how they wish to manage receipt of the Panel's statutory Annual Report and if appropriate seek the advice of their legal officers. However, all council members and officers should take care that no misleading statements are made or reported in media, in particular, an indication that a council has taken a decision to reduce or vary levels of payments. There are no powers that permit a principal council to take such action.

¹ [Local Government \(Wales\) Measure 2011](#)

1. The Panel's Framework: Principles of Members' Remuneration

Upholding trust and confidence

- 1.1 Citizens rightly expect that all those who choose to serve in local authorities uphold the public trust by embracing the values and ethics implicit in such public service. These principles underpin the contribution that the work of the Panel and its Framework make towards upholding public trust and confidence.

Simplicity

- 1.2 The Framework is clear and understandable. This is essential for the Panel to be able to communicate its determinations effectively to all those who are affected by, or who have an interest in its work.

Remuneration

- 1.3 The Framework provides for payment to members of authorities who carry a responsibility for serving their communities. The level of payment should not act as a barrier to taking up or continuing in post. There should be no requirement that resources necessary to enable the discharge of duties are funded from the payment. The Framework provides additional payments for those who are given greater levels of responsibility.

Diversity

- 1.4 Democracy is strengthened when the membership of authorities adequately reflects the demographic and cultural make-up of the communities such authorities serve. The Panel will always take in to account the contribution its Framework can make in encouraging the participation of those who are significantly under-represented at local authority level.

Accountability

- 1.5 Taxpayers and citizens have the right to receive value for money from public funds committed to the remuneration of those who are elected, appointed or co-opted to serve in the public interest. The Panel expects all authorities to make information readily and appropriately available about the activities and remuneration of their members.

Fairness

- 1.6 The Framework will be capable of being applied consistently to members of all authorities within the Panel's remit as a means of ensuring that levels of remuneration are fair, affordable and generally acceptable.

Quality

- 1.7 The Panel recognises that the complex mix of governance, scrutiny and regulatory duties incumbent upon members requires them to engage with a process of continuous quality improvement. The Panel expects members to undertake such training and personal development opportunities as required to properly discharge the duties for which they are remunerated.

Transparency

- 1.8 Transparency of members' remuneration is in the public interest. Some members receive additional levels of remuneration by virtue of being elected or appointed to more than one public body. The Framework serves to ensure that knowledge of all members' remuneration is made easily available to the public.

Remuneration of Heads of Paid Service

- 1.9 The Panel applies these principles of fairness, accountability and transparency in all its determinations in relation to remuneration of members of all the authorities that fall within its remit. The same principles also apply when the Panel is required to make recommendations in relation to the remuneration of the heads of paid service of these authorities.

2. Annual Report Summary Page

Type of Payment	Type of Authority			
	Principal Councils	National Park Authorities	Fire and Rescue Authorities	Community and Town Councils
Basic Salary	page 11	page 25	page 28	N/A ²
Senior Roles	page 14	page 25	page 28	page 42
Committee Chairs	page 13	page 26	page 28	N/A
Opposition Groups	page 14	N/A	N/A	N/A
Civic Heads and Deputies	page 15	N/A	N/A	page 44
Presiding Members	page 16	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mileage	page 38	page 38	page 38	page 43
Other Travel Costs	page 38	page 38	page 38	page 43
Subsistence Costs	page 39	page 39	page 39	page 43
Contribution towards Costs of Care and Personal Assistance	page 32	page 32	page 32	page 32
Family Absence	page 23	N/A	N/A	N/A
Sickness Absence	page 36	page 36	page 36	N/A
Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committees	page 21	N/A	N/A	N/A
Pension	page 22	N/A	N/A	N/A
Co-optees	page 30	page 30	page 30	N/A
Specific or Additional Allowances	page 18	N/A	N/A	N/A
Payments to Community and Town Councillors	N/A	N/A	N/A	page 40
Compensation for Financial Loss	N/A	N/A	N/A	page 43
Statement of Payments	page 73	page 73	page 73	page 73
Schedule of Remuneration	Page 71	Page 71	Page 71	N/A
Salaries of Head of Paid Services	Page 49	N/A	Page 49	N/A

² Not Applicable

3. Payments to Elected Members of Principal Councils: Basic, Senior and Civic Salaries

Basic salary for elected members of principal councils

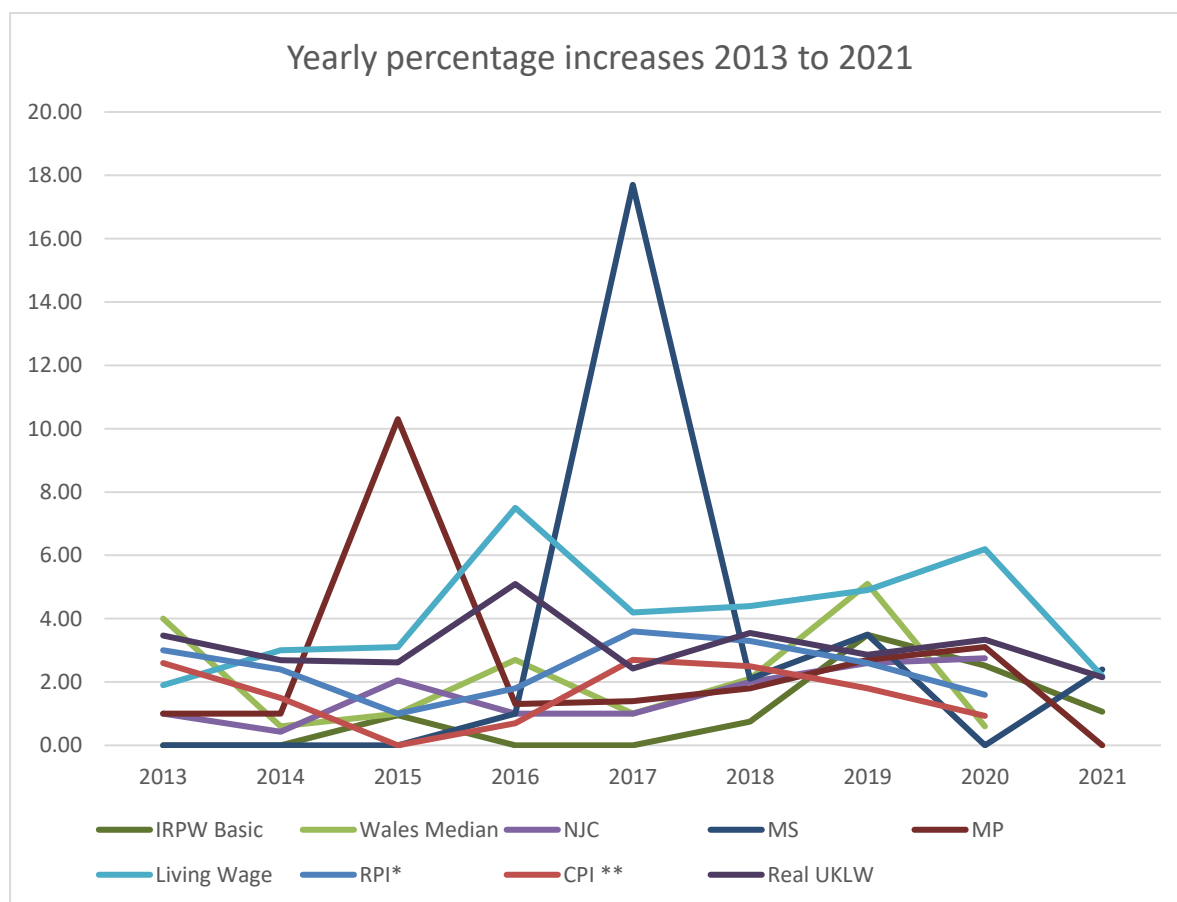
- 3.1 In 2009 the Panel set the maximum basic salary at £13,868, representing three fifths of the then median gross earnings of all full-time employees resident in Wales as reported in the Annual Survey of Hourly Earnings (ASHE) published by the Office of National Statistics. The Panel assessed it appropriate to use a figure comparable with constituents' pay, adjusted for the part-time nature of the work of a member with no senior responsibilities. Ten years on, this identical figure of £13,868 was determined as the basic salary in the Panel's 2019 annual report. A detailed explanatory paper setting out the historical context and analysis is available on the Panel's website at this [link](#). The key issues are outlined below.
- 3.1.1 Over this last decade, taking account of affordability and acceptability, the Panel has determined figures for the basic salary which have varied but have not kept pace with measures of inflation or other possible comparators. These include: Retail Prices Index, Consumer Prices Index, Wales Median Salary (ASHE), NJC (public sector employees), National Living Wage, the Real UK Living Wage, Members of Senedd Cymru, and MPs. Table 1, illustrated by Graph 1, shows the percentage increases to the basic salary and these alternatives from 2013 to 2021.
- 3.1.2 To set this in the context of other Welsh elected members, from 2013 to 2020 the basic salary increased by 7.9% (£13,175 to £14,218) whilst a Senedd Cymru member's salary increased by 25.6% (£53,852 to £67,649) and an MP's salary increased by 23.4% (£66,396 to £81,932).
- 3.1.3 Thus, backbench members' salaries have fallen significantly behind by any reasonable measure of inflation.

Table 1 – Yearly percentage increases to basic salary, benchmarks and alternative measures 2013 to 2021

Annual Report Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
IRPW Basic	0.00	0.00	0.95	0.00	0.00	0.75	3.49	2.52	1.06
Wales Median	4.00	0.60	1.00	2.70	1.00	2.10	5.10	0.60	Oct-21
NJC	1.00	0.43	2.05	1.00	1.00	2.00	2.60	2.75	
MS	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	17.70	2.10	3.50	0.00	2.40
MP	1.00	1.00	10.30	1.30	1.40	1.80	2.70	3.10	0.00
RPI*	3.00	2.40	1.00	1.80	3.60	3.30	2.60	1.60	
CPI March**	2.60	1.50	0.00	0.70	2.70	2.50	1.80	0.93	
Living Wage	1.90	3.00	3.10	7.50	4.20	4.40	4.90	6.20	2.18
Real UKLW	3.47	2.68	2.61	5.10	2.42	3.55	2.86	3.33	2.15

** 2020 figure is the average of 8 months to December; **2020 figure is the average of 8 months to December*

Graph 1 – Yearly percentage increases 2013 to 2021



- 3.2 The Panel remains aware that the key activities required of an elected member of a principal council vary. Duties undertaken should enable all members to discharge their core non-executive responsibilities in the governance of their council and in representing those living in their ward. As an elected role, such posts are not readily treated in the same manner as employment with precisely quantified hours. The work that arises in representing ward residents is particularly varied because it is influenced by the very diverse socio-economic conditions, demographics, levels of urbanisation and different ratios of residents to councillors. These variations occur within individual authorities as well as in comparisons of local authorities throughout Wales. Elected positions carry an expectation of a level of personal commitment to the community that goes beyond defined remunerated hours. Many elected members report that their time spent is well in excess of the notional three days (extra time worked and previously defined by the Panel as a 'public service discount').
- 3.3 Despite the pandemic, Panel members continue meeting with the Chairs of Democratic Services Committees, their officers and councillors. The Panel has also, through varied correspondence with councils and individual council members and others, maintained its ongoing dialogue. The position generally expressed by councillors and officers remains that the basic workload discharged by all elected members is substantial and exceeds 3 days per week.
- 3.4 When making financial determinations for this Annual Report, the Panel considered the progression of the variety of benchmark figures outlined above for the period from 2013 to 2020. Any adjustments in recent years have been in keeping with the Panel's principle that its determinations should be affordable and acceptable. This principle is maintained in the increase for 2021/2022 in the basic salary of elected members of £150.
- 3.5 This salary shall be paid by each principal authority in Wales from 1 April 2021 to each of its elected members unless any individual member opts personally and in writing to receive a lower amount.

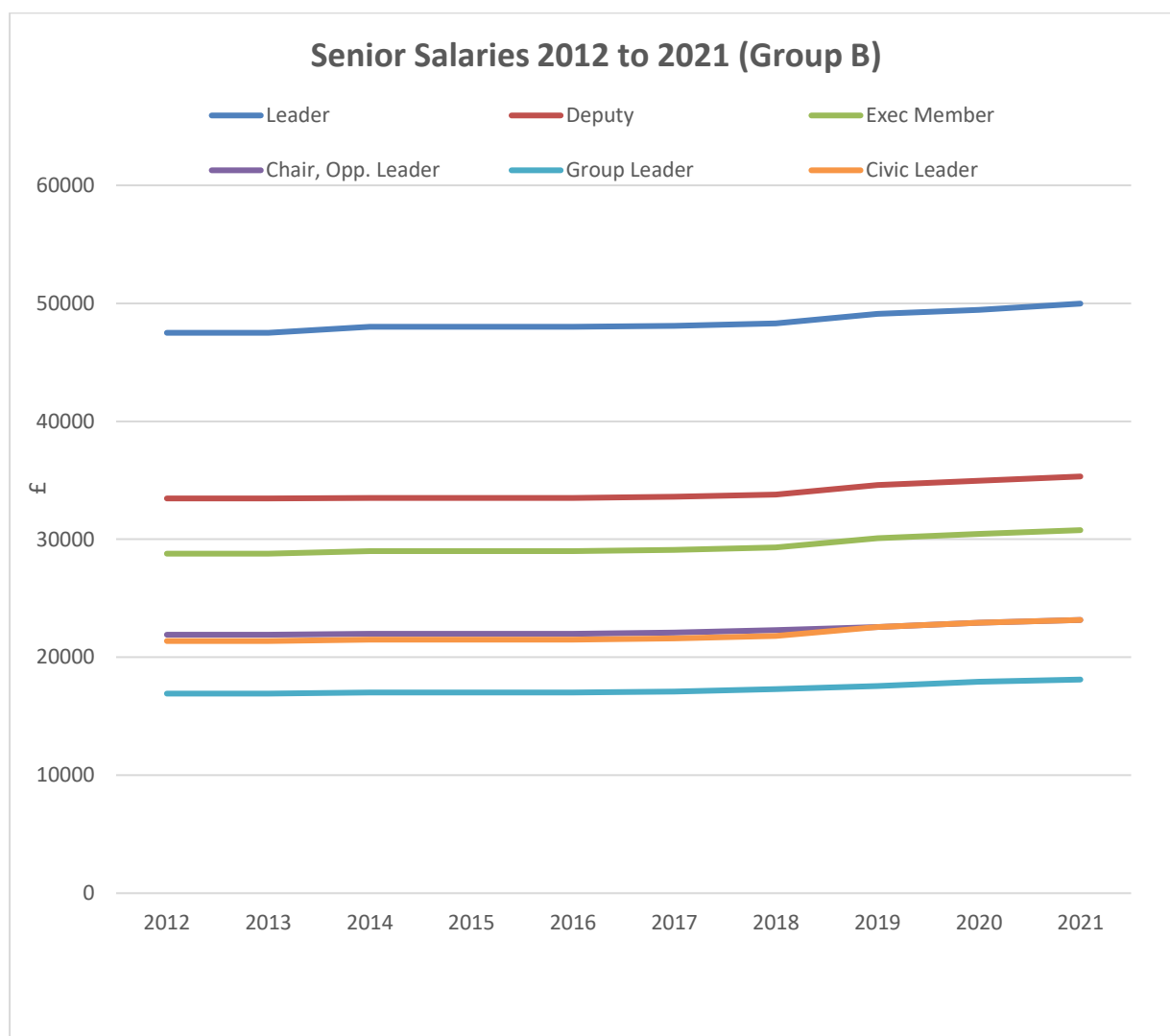
Determination 1: The Basic Salary in 2021/22 for elected members of principal councils shall be £14,368 with effect from 1 April 2021.

Senior Salaries

Payments to members of the executive, chairs of committees and the leader of the opposition.

- 3.6 In 2021 senior salaries will be increased at the same rate (1.06%) as basic salaries.

Graph 2: Senior salaries 2012 to 2021



- 3.7 The limit on the number of senior salaries payable ('the cap') will remain in place. In 2021/22 the maximum number of senior salaries payable within each council will not be altered and will be as set out in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Maximum numbers of council membership eligible for payment of a senior salary

Council	Number of councillors	Number of senior salaries
Group A (populations over 200,000)		
Cardiff	75	19
Rhondda Cynon Taf	75	19
Swansea	72	19
Group B (populations of 100,000 to 200,000)		
Bridgend	54	18
Caerphilly	73	18
Carmarthenshire	74	18
Conwy	59	18
Flintshire	70	18
Gwynedd	75	18
Neath Port Talbot	64	18
Newport	50	18
Pembrokeshire	60	18
Powys	73	18
Vale of Glamorgan	47	18
Wrexham	52	18
Group C (populations of up to 100,000)		
Blaenau Gwent	42	17
Ceredigion	42	17
Denbighshire	47	17
Isle of Anglesey	30	16
Merthyr Tydfil	33	16
Monmouthshire	43	17
Torfaen	44	17

The Executive

- 3.8 The Panel continues to take the view that Executive members should be considered as working the equivalent of full time (around 40 hours per week) but not necessarily nine to five. Continued discussions with members and officers in recent years have reinforced this conclusion.
- 3.9 Senior salaries are set out in Determination 2.

Chairs of Committees

- 3.10 There is a significant difference in the responsibilities and functions of chairing different committees. Councils are reminded that they do not have to pay chairs of committees. It is a matter for each council to decide which, if any, chairs of committees are remunerated. This allows councils to take account of differing levels of responsibility.
- 3.11 Where chairs of committees are paid, the remuneration is: £23,161.

The Senior Salary Bands

Determination 2: Senior salary levels in 2021/22 for members of principal councils shall be as set out in Table 3 with effect from 1 April 2021.

Table 3: Basic salary and senior salaries payable to members of principal councils

Basic salary (payable to all elected members) £14,368			
	Group A Cardiff, Rhondda Cynon Taf, Swansea	Group B Bridgend, Caerphilly, Carmarthenshire, Conwy, Flintshire, Gwynedd, Newport, Neath Port Talbot, Pembrokeshire, Powys, Vale of Glamorgan, Wrexham	Group C Blaenau Gwent, Ceredigion, Denbighshire, Merthyr Tydfil, Monmouthshire, Torfaen, Isle of Anglesey
Senior salaries (inclusive of basic salary)			
Band 1 Leader	£55,027	£49,974	£44,921
Deputy leader	£38,858	£35,320	£31,783
Band 2 Executive members	£33,805	£30,773	£27,741
Band 3 Committee chairs (if remunerated):	£23,161		
Band 4 Leader of largest opposition group ³	£23,161		
Band 5 Leader of other political groups	£18,108		

³ Leader of largest opposition group. See IRPW Regulations, Annex 2, Part 1(2) for a definition of “largest opposition group” and “other political group”.

Table 3 notes:

- a. The Panel considers that leadership and executive roles (Band 1 and 2 salaries respectively) carry the greatest individual accountability and that 'size of population' remains a major factor in influencing levels of responsibility and the use of the three population groups (A, B and C) has therefore been retained. For information: Group A Population 200,000 and above; Group B Population 100,001 to 199,999; Group C Population up to 100,000.
- b. Committee chairs will be paid at Band 3. It is a matter for each council to decide which, if any, chairs of committees are remunerated. This allows councils to take account of differing levels of responsibility.
- c. The stipulation that an opposition group leader or any other group leader must represent at least 10% of the council membership before qualifying for a senior salary remains unchanged.
- d. The Panel has determined that a council must make a senior salary available to the leader of the largest opposition group.
- e. The Panel has determined that, if remunerated, a Band 5 senior salary must be paid to leaders of other political groups.

Payments to Civic Heads and Deputies (Civic Salaries)

- 3.12 The Panel had previously allowed councils to vary salaries of civic heads and deputy civic heads to reflect the specific responsibilities attached to the roles. However, councils strongly expressed to the Panel that elected members do not wish to make decisions that require Councils themselves such choices and options were removed in 2019. In the case of civic salaries, if paid, the payment for Band 3 is set at £23,161 for a civic head and at the Band 5 salary of £18,108 for a deputy civic head (Determination 3). A council may decide not to apply any civic salary to the posts of civic head and or deputy civic head.
- 3.13 The posts of civic head and deputy civic head are not included in the cap (with the exception of Isle of Anglesey and Merthyr Tydfil Councils).

Determination 3: Where paid, a Civic Head must be paid a Band 3 salary of £23,161 and, where paid, a Deputy Civic Head must be paid a Band 5 salary of £18,108 with effect from 1 April 2021.

- 3.14 Civic heads are senior posts within councils which are distinct from political or executive leadership. In addition to chairing major meetings the civic head is the authorities' 'first citizen' and 'ambassador' representing the council to a wide variety of institutions and organisations. The Panel's requirement that members should not have to pay for the cost of the support (see **determination 10**) needed to carry out their duties applies also in respect of deputy civic heads.
- 3.15 In many instances civic heads receive secretarial support and are provided with transport for official duties and can access a separate hospitality budget which is managed and controlled by council officers.
- 3.16 The Panel recognises the wide range of provision made for civic heads in respect of transport, secretarial support, charitable giving and clothing. Funding decisions in relation to levels of such additional support are not matters of personal remuneration, but of the funding required to carry out the tasks and duties. These matters remain entirely a decision for individual councils. Councils remain free to invest in support at whatever levels they deem appropriate for the levels of civic leadership they have in place.
- 3.17 The Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013 allows councils to appoint a presiding member whose role is to chair meetings of the whole council. Where appointed, there would be a consequential reduction in the responsibilities of the respective civic head.

Payments to Presiding Members

- 3.18 Councils are reminded that, if a presiding member is appointed, they do not have to be remunerated. If they are remunerated the post will count towards the cap and be paid at a Band 3 senior salary of £23,161.

Determination 4: Where appointed and if remunerated, a Presiding Member must be paid a Band 3 senior salary of £23,161.

Determination 5: The post of Deputy Presiding Member will not be remunerated.

Key factors underpinning the Panel's determinations:

- 3.19 The basic salary, paid to all elected members, is remuneration for the responsibility of community representation and participation in the scrutiny, regulatory and related functions of local governance for the time equivalent of three days a week. Any time commitment beyond three days is an unpaid public service contribution.
- 3.20 The prescribed salary and expenses must be paid in full to each member unless an individual has independently and voluntarily opted in writing to the authority's proper officer to forego all or any element of the payment. It is

fundamental there is transparency in this process so any possible suggestion that members are put under pressure to forego some of the salaries is avoided.

The following must be applied:

Determination 6:

- a) An elected member must not be remunerated for more than one senior post within their authority.**
- b) An elected member must not be paid a senior salary and a civic salary.**
- c) All senior and civic salaries are paid inclusive of basic salary.**
- d) If a council chooses to have more than one remunerated deputy leader, the difference between the senior salary for the deputy leader and other executive members should be divided by the number of deputy leaders and added to the senior salary for other executive members in order to calculate the senior salary payable to each deputy leader.**

Determination 7: Members in receipt of a Band 1 or Band 2 senior salary cannot receive a salary from any NPA or FRA to which they have been appointed. They remain eligible to claim travel and subsistence expenses and contribution towards costs of care and personal assistance from the NPA or FRA.

Determination 8: Members in receipt of a Band 1 or Band 2 salary cannot receive any payment from a Community or Town Council of which they are a member. They remain eligible to claim travel and subsistence expenses and contribution towards costs of care and personal assistance from the Community or Town Council. Where this situation applies, it is the responsibility of the individual member to comply.

Supporting the work of local authority elected members

- 3.21 The Panel expects the support provided should take account of the specific needs of individual members. The functions of Democratic Services Committees include a requirement to review periodically the level of support provided to members to carry out their duties and the Panel would expect these committees to carry this out and bring forward proposals to the full council as to what is considered to be reasonable. Any proposals should be made with due regard to Determinations 9 and 10 below. For example, the Panel does not consider it appropriate that elected members should be required to pay for any telephone usage to enable them to discharge their council duties as a ward member, committee member or cabinet member.
- 3.22 The Panel considers it is necessary for each elected member to have ready use

of e-mail services, and electronic access to appropriate information via an internet connection. The Panel does not consider it appropriate that elected members should be required to pay for internet related services to enable them to discharge their council duties as a ward member, committee member or cabinet member. This comprises the necessary provision for a member to be in proper contact with council services and to maintain contact with those they represent. Councils are committed to 'paperless working' and without electronic access members would be significantly limited in their ability to discharge their duties. It is not appropriate for facilities required by members to be available only within council offices within office hours.

- 3.23 The responsibility of each council, through its Democratic Services Committee, to provide support should be based on an assessment of the needs of its members. When members' additional needs or matters of disability apply, or there are specific training requirements indicated, each authority will need to assess any particular requirements of individual members.
- 3.24 As a result of their legitimate actions as a councillor an elected member's personal security may become significantly, adversely affected. In keeping with their existing responsibilities, it is the duty of Democratic Services Committees to fund or provide support necessary to enable a councillor to discharge their role reasonably and safely. This may require the funding of appropriate security measures to protect councillors from personal risk or significant threat. Risk assessment and liaison with relevant bodies such as the police and security services would normally inform the selection of required provision.
- 3.25 For co-opted members the support requirements are set out in section 9 and determination 40.

Determination 9: Each authority, through its Democratic Services Committee, must ensure that all its elected members are given as much support as is necessary to enable them to fulfil their duties effectively. All elected members should be provided with adequate telephone, email and internet facilities giving electronic access to appropriate information.

Determination 10: Such support should be without cost to the individual member. Deductions must not be made from members' salaries by the respective authority as a contribution towards the cost of support which the authority has decided necessary for the effectiveness and or efficiency of members.

Specific or additional senior salaries

- 3.26 The Panel has allowed for greater flexibility through the provision for authorities to apply for specific or additional senior salaries that do not fall within the current remuneration framework, or which could not be accommodated within the maximum number of senior salaries relating to the authority. If the proposed addition is approved and results in the council exceeding its cap, this

will be included in the approval (with exception of Merthyr Tydfil and the Isle of Anglesey Councils – see footnote 4). Some councils have raised the possibility of operating some senior salary posts on a “job share” arrangement. The Panel is supportive of this principle and the process is set out in Paragraph 3.28.

Determination 11: Principal Councils can apply for specific or additional senior salaries that do not fall within the current Remuneration Framework.

3.27 Guidance to local authorities on the application process was issued in April 2014 and incorporated the following principles:

- a. The total number of senior salaries cannot exceed fifty percent⁴ of the membership.
- b. Applications will have to be approved by the authority as a whole (unless this has been delegated within Standing Orders) prior to submission to the Panel.
- c. There must be clear evidence that the post or posts have additional responsibility demonstrated by a description of the role, function and duration.
- d. Each application will have to indicate the timing for a formal review of the role to be considered by the authority as a whole.

⁴ Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 Section 142 (5) The proportion fixed by the Panel in accordance with subsection (4) may not exceed fifty percent unless the consent of the Welsh Minister has been obtained.

3.28 Job Sharing Arrangements

For members of an executive: Each “sharer” will be paid an appropriate proportion of the salary group as set out in Table 3.

The statutory maximum for cabinets cannot be exceeded so each job sharer will count toward the maximum.

Under the Measure, it is the number of persons in receipt of a senior salary, not the number of senior salary posts that count towards the cap. Therefore, for all job share arrangements the senior salary cap will be increased subject to the statutory maximum of 50% of the council’s membership.

The Panel must be informed of the details of any job share arrangements.

4. Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committees (JOSC)

- 4.1 Little use has been made of the arrangements for JOSCs. Therefore, the Panel has decided to delete the payment from the framework. If, in future, a JOSC is formed by an individual council and it wishes to remunerate, it can apply using the arrangements contained in paragraphs 3.26 and 3.27. The current JOSCs in operation will continue without need for further confirmation. The applicable salaries are set out in the following determinations.

Determination 12: The salary level for a Chair of a Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee shall be £8,793.

Determination 13: The salary level for a Vice Chair of a Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee shall be £4,396.

5. Pension Provision for Elected Members of Principal Councils

- 5.1 The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 provides a power to the Panel to make determinations on pension entitlement for elected members of principal councils.

Determination 14: The entitlement to join the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) shall apply to all eligible elected members of principal councils.

6. Entitlement to Family Absence

This section applies to elected members of principal authorities.

- 6.1 The Regulations relating to Family Absence for elected members of principal councils were approved by the National Assembly for Wales in November 2013⁵ and cover maternity, new born, adoption and parental absences from official business.
- 6.2 The Panel considered the implications for the remuneration of such members who are given absence under the terms of the Welsh Government Regulations and the Panel's determinations are set out below.

Determination 15: An elected member is entitled to retain a basic salary when taking family absence under the original regulations or any amendment to the regulations irrespective of the attendance record immediately preceding the commencement of the family absence.

Determination 16: When a senior salary holder is eligible for family absence, they will continue to receive the salary for the duration of the absence.

Determination 17: It is a matter for the authority to decide whether or not to make a substitute appointment. The elected member substituting for a senior salary holder taking family absence will be eligible to be paid a senior salary, if the authority so decides.

Determination 18: If the paid substitution results in the authority exceeding the maximum number of senior salaries which relates to it, as set out in the Panel's Annual Report, an addition to the maximum will be allowed for the duration of the substitution. However, this will not apply to the Isle of Anglesey or Merthyr Tydfil Councils if it would result in the number of senior salaries exceeding fifty percent of the Council membership. Specific approval of Welsh Ministers is required in such circumstances.

Determination 19: When a Council agrees a paid substitution for family absence the Panel must be informed within 14 days of the date of the decision, of the details including the particular post and the duration of the substitution.

Determination 20: The Council's schedule of remuneration must be amended to reflect the implication of the family absence.

⁵ [The Family Absence for Members of Local Authorities \(Wales\) Regulations 2013](#)

7. Payments to Members of National Park Authorities (NPAs)

Structure of National Park Authorities

7.1 The three National Parks in Wales - Brecon Beacons, Pembrokeshire Coast and Snowdonia were formed to protect spectacular landscapes and provide recreation opportunities for the public. The Environment Act 1995 led to the creation of the three corresponding National Park Authorities (NPAs). These have two main statutory purposes, to:

- protect and improve the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage;
- promote opportunities for the public to understand and enjoy the National Park's special features.

In addition to fulfilling the National Park's purposes, it is the duty of the National Park Authority to foster the economic and social wellbeing of local communities within the Park.

7.2 National Park Authorities comprise Members who are either elected members nominated by the Principal Councils within the National Park area or are members appointed by the Welsh Government through the Public Appointments process. Welsh Government appointed and council nominated members are treated equally in relation to remuneration.

7.3 The structure of the Members' Committee at each of the three national parks is set out in Table 4.

Table 4: Membership of Welsh National Park Authorities

National Park Authority	Total Membership	Principal Council Members	Welsh Government appointed Members
Brecon Beacons	18	12: Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council – 1 Carmarthenshire County Council – 1 Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council – 1 Monmouthshire County Council – 1 Powys County Council – 6 Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council - 1 Torfaen County Borough Council – 1	6
Pembrokeshire Coast	18	12: Pembrokeshire County Council – 12	6
Snowdonia	18	12: Conwy County Borough Council – 3 Gwynedd Council – 9	6

- 7.4 In addition, Standards Committees of NPAs have independent co-opted members whose remuneration is included in the Framework as set out in Section 9.
- 7.5 In considering remuneration of members of NPAs, the Panel has based its determinations on the following key points:
- NPAs manage their work via formal authority meetings, committees and task and finish groups. Each has a Development, Management and or Planning Committee, and other committees include Performance and Resources and Audit and Scrutiny. Ordinary NPA members are members of at least one committee as well as being involved in site visits and inspection Panels.
 - There is an expectation that members will participate in training and development.
 - The Chair of an NPA has a leadership and influencing role in the authority, a representational role similar in some respects to that of a civic head and a high level of accountability. The chair is not only the leader of the authority but is also the public face of the particular national park and is the link with the Minister and MSs with whom they have regular meetings. The role requires a high level of commitment and time.

Basic and senior salaries

- 7.6 In the time commitment on which the remuneration of members is based is 44 days. The salary for members of NPAs will increase to £4,053.
- 7.7 The Panel has determined that the remuneration of a NPA Chair should be aligned to that part of a Band 3 senior salary received by a committee chair of a principal council. This salary will increase to £12,845.
- 7.8 The Panel has previously determined that up to two other committee Chairs can be remunerated. If the NPA considered this was restrictive, there was an option to apply for additional Senior Salary. It is proposed that this restriction is removed and that NPAs determine the number of Senior posts it requires as appropriate to its governance arrangements. The determination relating to the application for additional senior salaries is removed.
- 7.9 The Panel has made the following determinations:

Determination 21: The basic salary for NPA ordinary members shall be £4,053 with effect from 1 April 2021.

Determination 22: The senior salary of the Chair of a NPA shall be £12,845 with effect from 1 April 2021.

Determination 23: A NPA senior salary of £7,792 must be paid to a Deputy Chair where appointed.

Determination 24: Committee chairs or other senior posts can be paid. This shall be paid at £7,792.

Determination 25: Members must not receive more than one NPA senior salary.

Determination 26: A NPA senior salary is paid inclusive of the NPA basic salary.

Determination 27: Members of a principal council in receipt of a Band 1 or Band 2 senior salary cannot receive a salary from any NPA to which they have been appointed. Where this situation applies, it is the responsibility of the individual member to comply.

Note: Family absence does not apply to Welsh Government appointed members and local authority nominees are covered by their principal council so NPAs are not required to make any arrangements in this respect.

8. Payments to Members of Welsh Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs)

Structure of Fire and Rescue Authorities

- 8.1 The three Fire and Rescue Services (FRAs) in Wales: Mid and West Wales, North Wales and South Wales were formed as part of Local Government re-organisation in 1996.
- 8.2 FRAs comprise elected members who are nominated by the Principal Councils within each Fire and Rescue Service area.
- 8.3 The structure of the each of the three FRAs is set out in Table 5.

Table 5: Membership of Fire and Rescue Authorities

Name of Fire and Rescue Authority	Number of Local Authority Members
Mid and West Wales	25: Carmarthenshire County Council – 5 Ceredigion County Council – 2 Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council – 4 Pembrokeshire County Council – 3 Powys County Council – 4 Swansea City and County Council – 7
North Wales	28: Conwy County Borough Council – 5 Denbighshire County Council – 4 Flintshire County Council – 6 Gwynedd Council – 5 Isle of Anglesey County Council – 3 Wrexham County Borough Council – 5
South Wales	24: Bridgend County Borough Council – 2 Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council – 1 Caerphilly County Borough Council – 3 Cardiff City Council – 5 Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council – 1 Monmouthshire County Council – 2 Newport City Council - 2 Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council - 4 Torfaen County Borough Council – 2 Vale of Glamorgan Council -2

- 8.4 In addition, Standards Committees of FRAs have independent co-opted members whose remuneration is included in the Framework as set out in Section 9.

8.5 In considering remuneration of members of FRAs, the Panel has based its determinations on the following key points:

- The Chair has a leadership and influencing role in the authority, and a high level of accountability especially when controversial issues relating to the emergency service arise. In addition to fire authority meetings, all FRAs have committees that include in different combinations: audit, performance management, scrutiny, human resources, resource management as well as task and finish groups and disciplinary Panels. As well as attending formal meetings of the authority and committees, members are encouraged to take on a community engagement role, including visiting fire stations.
- There is a strong training ethos in FRAs. Members are expected to participate in training and development. Induction programmes are available as well as specialist training for appeals and disciplinary hearings.
- Training sessions often follow on from authority meetings to make the training accessible.

Basic and Senior Salaries

- 8.6 The time commitment on which the remuneration is based is 22 days. The salary for members of FRAs will increase to £2,026.
- 8.7 The Panel determined that the remuneration of a FRA Chair should be aligned to that part of a Band 3 senior salary received by a committee chair of a principal council. This salary will increase to £10,818.
- 8.8 The Panel determined that the remuneration of a FRA Deputy Chair will be aligned with the Band 5 senior salary for principal councils. This will increase to £5,765 and must be paid if the authority appoints a deputy chair.
- 8.9 The Panel has previously determined that up to two other committee Chairs can be remunerated. If the FRA considered this was restrictive, there was an option to apply for additional Senior Salary. It is proposed that this restriction is removed and that FRAs determine the number of Senior posts it requires as appropriate to its governance arrangements. The determination relating to the application for additional senior salaries is removed. Committee Chairs and any other senior post if remunerated will be aligned with Band 5. This will increase to £5,765.

Local Pension Boards

- 8.10 The Panel has considered requests from FRAs to allow them to pay salaries to Chairs of local pension boards established under the Firefighters' Pension Scheme (Wales) Regulations 2015. Those Regulations already give FRAs the power to decide how local pension boards are to work and to pay the Chair and members if they wish. Therefore, it is not appropriate for the Panel to make a determination empowering FRAs to pay salaries to local pension

board Chairs. The senior salaries in Determination 28 or 29 cannot be used exclusively for this role.

8.11 The Panel has made the following determinations:

Determination 28: The basic salary for FRA ordinary members shall be £2,026 with effect from 1 April 2021.

Determination 29: The senior salary of the Chair of an FRA shall be £10,818 with effect from 1 April 2021.

Determination 30: A FRA senior salary of £5,765 must be paid to the Deputy Chair where appointed.

Determination 31: Chairs of committees or other senior posts can be paid. This shall be paid at £5,765.

Determination 32: Members must not receive more than one FRA senior salary.

Determination 33: A FRA senior salary is paid inclusive of the FRA basic salary and must reflect significant and sustained responsibility.

Determination 34: Members of a principal council in receipt of a Band 1 or Band 2 senior salary cannot receive a salary from any FRA to which they have been nominated. Where this situation applies, it is the responsibility of the individual member to comply,

9. Payments to Co-opted Members of Principal Councils, National Park Authorities and Fire & Rescue Authorities⁶

- 9.1 The Panel has determined that a daily or half daily fee is appropriate remuneration for the important role undertaken by co-opted members of authorities with voting rights.
- 9.2 The number of days in any one year for which co-opted members may be paid varies and reflects the specific work discharged by the relevant committee. This context for payment therefore differs from that for elected members of principal councils which provides a monthly payment. Many elected members of principal councils report that they rely on this as part of a core income without which they would be unable to continue in the role.
- 9.3 In dialogue with the Panel, co-opted members acknowledge the importance of fees they receive but do not identify these payments as an income for living upon which they depend. Panel determinations in relation to co-opted member fees occur in this context and any uplifts are therefore not comparable with the changes to salaries of elected members.
- 9.4 The Panel proposes an increase of £12 to £210 daily rate for ordinary co-opted members and for those with additional responsibility.
- 9.5 Recognising the important role that co-opted members discharge, payment must be made for travel and preparation time; committee and other types of meetings as well as other activities, including training, as set out in Determinations 36 to 39.
- 9.6 The determinations are set out below and principal councils, NPAs and FRAs must tell co-opted members the name of the appropriate officer who will provide them with the information required for their claims; and make the appropriate officer aware of the range of payments that should be made.

Determination 35: Principal councils, NPAs and FRAs must pay the following fees to co-opted members who have voting rights (Table 6).

Table 6: Fees for co-opted members (with voting rights)

Chairs of standards, and audit committees	£268 (4 hours and over) £134 (up to 4 hours)
Ordinary members of standards committees who also chair standards committees for community and town councils	£238 daily fee (4 hours and over) £119 (up to 4 hours)
Ordinary members of standards committees; education scrutiny committee; crime and disorder scrutiny committee and audit committee	£210 (4 hours and over) £105 (up to 4 hours)

Community and town councillors sitting on principal council standards committees	£210 (4 hours and over) £105 (up to 4 hours)
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Determination 36: Reasonable time for pre-meeting preparation is to be included in claims made by co-opted members the extent of which can be determined by the appropriate officer in advance of the meeting.

Determination 37: Travelling time to and from the place of the meeting is to be included in the claims for payments made by co-opted members (up to the maximum of the daily rate).

Determination 38: The appropriate officer within the authority must determine in advance whether a meeting is programmed for a full day and the fee will be paid on the basis of this determination even if the meeting finishes before four hours has elapsed.

Determination 39: Fees must be paid for meetings and other activities including other committees and working groups (including task and finish groups), pre-meetings with officers, training and attendance at conferences or any other formal meeting to which co-opted members are requested to attend.

Support for co-opted members

Determination 40: Each authority, through its Democratic Services Committee or other appropriate committee, must ensure that all voting co-opted members are given as much support as is necessary to enable them to fulfil their duties effectively. Such support should be without cost to the individual member.

⁶This section does not apply to co-opted members to community and town councils.

10. Contribution towards Costs of Care and Personal Assistance (CPA)

- 10.1 This section applies to all members of principal councils, National Park Authorities, Fire and Rescue Authorities and to Co-opted members of these authorities. The same provision applies to Community and Town Councils.
- 10.2 The purpose of this section is to enable people who have personal support needs and or caring responsibilities to carry out their duties effectively as a member of an authority. The Panel believes that additional costs of care required to carry out approved duties should not deter any individual from becoming and remaining a member of an authority or limit their ability to carry out the role. The Panel has adopted specific principles related to support for the costs of care which were the subject of a [Supplementary Report](#) published in February 2020. These principles are set out in table 7.
- 10.3 The Panel reviewed the arrangements for this financial support and has made the following changes:
- a) As payments are taxable under the current HMRC rules, full reimbursement is not possible so for clarity this is retitled to “contribution towards the costs of care and personal assistance”. It will still require receipts to accompany claims.
 - b) Claims can be made in respect of a dependant under 16 years of age, or a minor or adult who normally lives with the member as part of their family and who cannot be left unsupervised.
 - c) Clarification in respect of a member’s own care or support needs: Reimbursement may be claimed where the support and or cost of any additional needs are not available or are not met directly by the authority such as Access to Work, Personal Payments, Insurance. These could arise when the needs are recent and or temporary.
- 10.4 Members, including co-opted members are entitled to claim towards the costs of care and personal assistance, for activities that the individual council has designated official business or an approved duty which might include appropriate and reasonable preparation and travelling time. It is a matter for individual authorities to determine specific arrangements to implement this; each authority must ensure that any payments made are appropriately linked to official business or approved duty.
- 10.5 The Panel reviewed the maximum monthly payment in recognition that this has not changed for several years. Information indicates that monthly costs and claims vary considerably. These can depend on the number of dependants, their ages and other factors. Therefore the monthly cap will be replaced with the following arrangements:
- Formal (registered with Care Inspectorate Wales) care costs to be paid as evidenced.

- Informal (unregistered) care costs to be paid up to a maximum rate equivalent to the Real UK Living Wage at the time the costs are incurred.

For clarification, care costs cannot be paid to someone who is a part of a member's household

- 10.6 The Panel continues to recognise the issues relating to the publication of this legitimate expense and has retained the requirements for publication set out in Annex 4. To support current members and to encourage diversity the Panel urges authorities to promote and encourage greater take-up of the contribution towards costs of care and personal assistance.

Table 7

The Panel's principles relating to care and personal assistance (CPA)

The Minimum Authorities should do		How this could be done
Be clear who it is for	<p>Members with primary caring responsibilities for a child or adult and or personal support needs where these are not covered by statutory or other provision.</p> <p>For personal support. This might also include a short term or recent condition not covered by the Equality Act 2010, access to work, Personal Payments, insurance or other provision.</p>	A Confidential review of the needs of individual members annually and when circumstances change
Raise Awareness	Ensure potential candidates, candidates and current members are aware that financial support is available to them should their current or future circumstances require.	Ensure clear and easily found information is available on website and in election and appointment materials, at Shadowing and at induction and in the members' "handbook". Remind serving members via e-mail and or training. Signpost to Panel's Payments to Councillors leaflets.
Promote a Positive Culture	Ensure all members understand the reason for CPA and support and encourage others to claim where needed.	Encouragement within and across all parties of Relevant Authorities to support members to claim.

The Minimum Authorities should do		How this could be done
		Agree not to advertise or make public individual decisions not to claim.
Set out the approved duties for which CPA can be claimed	<p>Meetings – formal (those called by the Authority) and those necessary to members’ work (to deal with constituency but not party issues) and personal development (training, and appraisals.)</p> <p>Travel – in connection with meetings.</p> <p>Preparation – reading and administration are part of a member’s role. Some meetings and committees require large amounts of reading, analysis or drafting before or after a meeting.</p> <p>Senior salary holders with additional duties may have higher costs.</p>	<p>Approved duties are usually a matter of fact. Interpretation of the Panel’s Regulations are set out in the Annual Report.</p> <p>“Any other duty approved by the authority, or any duty of class so approved, undertaken for the purpose of, or in connection with, the discharge of the functions of the authority or any of its committees.”</p>
Be as enabling as possible about the types of care that can be claimed	<p>Members should not be “out of pocket” subject to the limit set in the Annual Report.</p> <p>Models of care and needs vary. Members may use a combination of several care options.</p> <p>Patterns of care may alter over the civic and academic year.</p> <p>Not all care is based on hourly (or part hourly) rates.</p> <p>Where a whole session must be paid for, this must be reimbursed even where the care need is only for part of a session.</p> <p>Members may need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • book and pay for sessions in advance • commit to a block contract: week, month or term • pay for sessions cancelled at short notice <p>Where care need straddles two sessions both should be reimbursed.</p>	

The Minimum Authorities should do		How this could be done
Have a simple and effective claim process	Members should know how to claim. The claim process should be clear, proportionate and auditable.	Check members understand how to claim and that it is easy to do so. Flexibility to accept paperless invoices Online form Same or similar form to travel costs claim
Comply with Panel's Publication rules	The Panel's Framework states: "In respect of the publication of the reimbursement of the costs of care, the Panel has decided that relevant authorities should only publish the total amount reimbursed during the year. It is a matter for each authority to determine its response to any Freedom of Information requests it receives. However, it is not intended that details of individual claims should be disclosed."	

Determination 41: All relevant authorities must provide a payment towards necessary costs for the care of dependent children and adults (provided by informal or formal carers) and for personal assistance needs as follows:

- **Formal (registered with Care Inspectorate Wales) care costs to be paid as evidenced.**
- **Informal (unregistered) care costs to be paid up to a maximum rate equivalent to the Real UK Living Wage at the time the costs are incurred.**

This must be for the additional costs incurred by members to enable them to carry out official business or approved duties. Each authority must ensure that any payments made are appropriately linked to official business or approved duty. Payment shall only be made on production of receipts from the care provider.

11. Sickness Absence for Senior Salary Holders

- 11.1 The Family Absence Regulations (approved by the National Assembly in 2014) are very specific relating to entitlement and only available for elected members of principal councils. Absence for reasons of ill-health is not included.
- 11.2 Instances have been raised with the Panel of senior salary holders on long term sickness and the perceived unfairness in comparison with the arrangements for family absence. In consequence, councils are faced with the dilemma of:
- Operating without the individual member but still paying them the senior salary.
 - Replacing the member who therefore loses the senior salary (but retains the basic salary).
- 11.3 The Panel's Framework provides specific arrangements for long term sickness as set out below:
- a) Long term sickness is defined as certified absences in excess of 4 weeks.
 - b) The maximum length of sickness absence within these proposals is 26 weeks or until the individual's term of office ends, whichever is sooner (but if reappointed any remaining balance of the 26 weeks will be included).
 - c) Within these parameters a senior salary holder on long term sickness can, if the authority decides, continue to receive remuneration for the post held.
 - d) It is a decision of the authority whether to make a substitute appointment, but the substitute will be eligible to be paid the senior salary appropriate to the post.
 - e) If the paid substitution results in the authority exceeding the maximum number of senior salaries payable for that authority, as set out in the Annual Report, an addition will be allowed for the duration of the substitution. (However, this would not apply to Merthyr Tydfil or the Isle of Anglesey councils if it would result in more than 50% of the membership receiving a senior salary. It would also not apply in respect of a council executive member if it would result in the cabinet exceeding 10 posts - the statutory maximum).
 - f) When an authority agrees a paid substitution, the Panel must be informed within 14 days of the decision of the details including the specific post and the estimated length of the substitution. The authorities' Schedule of Remuneration must be amended accordingly.
 - g) It does not apply to elected members of principal councils who are not

senior post holders as they continue to receive basic salary for at least six months irrespective of attendance and any extension beyond this timescale is a matter for the authority.

- 11.4 This arrangement applies to members of principal councils, National Park Authorities and Fire and Rescue Authorities who are senior salary holders, including Welsh Government appointed members, but does not apply to co-opted members.

Note:

The Family Absence Regulations apply to elected members in cases of maternity, new born, adoption and parental absences from official business. They do not apply to Welsh Government appointed members of National Park Authorities.

12. Reimbursement of Travel and Subsistence Costs when on Official Business

- 12.1 This section applies to members of principal councils, National Park Authorities, Fire and Rescue Authorities and to co-opted members of these authorities. (Similar provision for Community and Town Councils is contained in section 13 as there is a different approach to such members, principally that the provision is permissive.)
- 12.2 Members may claim reimbursement for travel and subsistence (meals and accommodation) costs where these have arisen as a result of undertaking official business or approved duties.
- 12.3 Expenses reimbursed to members of principal councils, by their principal council are exempt from Income Tax and employee NICs. Members of National Park Authorities and Fire and Rescue Authorities may be subject to other arrangements as determined by HMRC.
- 12.4 The Panel is aware that in some instances members with disabilities have been reluctant to claim legitimate travel expenses because of an adverse response following the publication of their travel costs. As an alternative, travel arrangements could be made directly by the authority in such circumstances.
- 12.5 The Panel has determined there will be no change to mileage rates which members are entitled to claim. All authorities may only reimburse travel costs for their members undertaking official business within and or outside the authority's boundaries at the current HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) rates which are:

Reimbursement of mileage costs

45p per mile	Up to 10,000 miles in a year by car
25p per mile	Over 10,000 miles in a year by car
5p per mile	Per passenger carried on authority business
24p per mile	Motor cycles
20p per mile	Bicycles

- 12.6 Where a member who is on official business or an approved duty is driven by a third party (not a member or officer of that authority), the member can claim mileage at the prescribed rates plus any parking or toll fees provided the authority is satisfied that the member has incurred these costs.

Reimbursement of other travel costs

- 12.7 All other claims for travel, including travel by taxi if this is the only, or most

appropriate, method of transport, must only be reimbursed on production of receipts showing the actual cost and will be subject to any requirement or further limitation that an authority may determine. Members should always be mindful of choosing the most cost-effective method of travel.

Reimbursement of subsistence costs

£28 per day	Day allowance for meals, including breakfast, where not provided in the overnight charge
£200 per night	London
£95 per night	Elsewhere
£30 per night	Staying with friends and or family

- 12.8 These rates are in line with Welsh Government rates. Recommended practice is that overnight accommodation should usually be reserved and paid for on behalf of members by the relevant authority, in which case an authority may set its own reasonable limits and the limits which apply when an individual member claims in arrears for overnight accommodation costs do not then apply.
- 12.9 All authorities must continue to reimburse subsistence expenses for their members up to the maximum rates set out above on the basis of receipted claims except for occasions when members stay with friends and or family.
- 12.10 There may be instances where an authority has determined that travel costs within its boundaries are payable and require a journey to be repeated on consecutive days. Where it is reasonable and cost effective to reimburse overnight accommodation costs, instead of repeated daily mileage costs, then it is permissible to do so.
- 12.11 It is not necessary to allocate the maximum daily rate (£28 per day) between different meals as the maximum daily rate reimbursable covers a 24-hour period and can be claimed for any meal if relevant, provided such a claim is accompanied by receipts.

Car Parking for Members

Several councils have specific arrangements for their members in respect of car parking. The Panel considers that it is a matter for individual councils to determine arrangements including payments to and from members providing that it is a decision made formally by the council.

13. Payments to Members of Community and Town Councils

- 13.1 The Panel recognises a wide variation in geography, scope and scale across the 735 community and town councils in Wales, from small community councils with relatively minimal expenditure and few meetings to large town councils with significant assets and responsibilities.
- 13.2 The COVID pandemic limited the Panel's opportunities for face to face engagement in 2020/2021. However, the Panel attended RCT's Community Council liaison online meeting in November and a number of other constructive digital engagements throughout this period. The year before, the Panel met with over 304 Councillors and Clerks representing 302 community and town councils in 17 meetings it held across Wales. The discussions re-confirmed the widely held view that the roles individual councils undertake varied significantly and in accordance with this wide variation, the responsibilities and accountabilities of councillors must also vary. Councillors managing income or expenditure of £1million and those delivering significant services, including some that might have been delegated from principal councils, are operating in a much more complex environment than a council with an annual budget of less than £30,000.
- 13.3 In the 2018 Annual Report the Panel formed 3 groups of community and town councils to reflect these differences based on the level of income *or* expenditure, whichever is the highest, in the previous financial year. These remain unchanged as set out in Table 8.

Table 8: Community and Town Council Groupings

Community and Town Council Group	Income <i>or</i> Expenditure in 2020-2021 of:
A	£200,000 and above
B	£30,000 - £199,999
C	Below £30,000

- 13.4 In order to act and carry out duties as a member of a community or town council all persons are required to make a formal declaration of acceptance of office. Following this declaration, members of community or town councils are then holders of elected office and occupy a role that is part of the Welsh local government structure. It is important to note that a person who follows this path is in a different position to those in other forms of activity, for example such as volunteering or charitable work, typically governed by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.
- 13.5 Under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011, community and town councils are relevant authorities for the purpose of remuneration.
- 13.6 Consequently, individuals who have accepted office as a member of a

community or town council are entitled to receive payments as determined by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales. It is the duty of the proper officer of a council (usually the Council Clerk) to arrange for correct payments to be made to all individuals entitled to receive them.

- 13.7 Members should receive monies to which they are properly entitled as a matter of course. There must be no requirement for individuals to 'opt in' to receive payments.
- 13.8 An individual may decline to receive part, or all, of the payments if they so wish. This must be done in writing and is an individual matter. A community or town council member wishing to decline payments must themselves write to their proper officer to do so.
- 13.9 The Panel considers that any member who has personal support needs or caring responsibilities should be enabled to fulfil their role. Therefore, the Panel is mandating contribution towards costs of care and personal allowance for all members of community and town councils as set out in Determination 41.
- 13.10 Each community and town council must ensure that it does not create a climate which prevents persons accessing any monies to which they are entitled that may support them to participate in local democracy. Payments should be made efficiently and promptly.
- 13.11 Members in receipt of a Band 1 or Band 2 senior salary from a principal council cannot receive any payment from any community or town council, other than travel and subsistence expenses and contribution towards costs of care and personal assistance. However, this does not preclude them from holding a senior role (Leader, Deputy Leader) without payment.
- 13.12 Table 9 sets out the actions that community and town councils must take annually in respect of each determination that follows.

Payments towards costs and expenses

- 13.13 The Panel continues to mandate a payment of £150 as a contribution to costs and expenses for members of all community and town councils.
- 13.14 For the avoidance of doubt this determination now includes all councils. Receipts are not required for these payments.

Determination 42: All community and town councils must make available a payment to each of their members of £150 per year as a contribution to costs and expenses.

Senior roles

- 13.15 The Panel recognises that specific member roles especially within the larger community and town councils, for example a committee chair, will involve greater responsibility. It is also likely that larger councils will have a greater number of committees, reflecting its level of activity. The Panel has therefore determined that councils in Group A must make available a payment for a minimum of one senior role and a maximum of five senior roles of £500 each. Councils in Groups B and C can pay up to five responsibility payments (of up to £500) for specified roles.
- 13.16 In all cases, a Councillor can only have one payment of £500 regardless of how many senior roles they hold within their Council.

Determination 43: Community and town councils in Group A must make available an annual payment of £500 each to a minimum of 1 and a maximum of 5 members in recognition of specific responsibilities. This is in addition to the £150 payment for costs and expenses.

Determination 44: Community and town councils in Groups B or C can make an annual payment of up to £500 each to up to 5 members in recognition of specific responsibilities. This is in addition to the £150 payment for costs and expenses.

- 13.17 Where a person is a member of more than one community or town council, they are eligible to receive the £150 and, if appropriate, £500 from each council of which they are a member.

Contribution towards costs of care and personal assistance

- 13.18 The purpose of this is to enable people who have personal support needs and or caring responsibilities to carry out their duties effectively as a member of an authority. The Panel's determinations in section 10 apply to Community and Town Councils.

Reimbursement of travel costs and subsistence costs

- 13.19 The Panel recognises there can be significant travel and subsistence costs associated with the work of community and town council members, especially where the council area is geographically large and/or when engaging in duties outside this area. Each council has an option to pay travel and subsistence costs including travel by taxi if this is the only, or most appropriate, method of transport. Where a council does opt to pay travel and subsistence costs, the following determinations apply.

Determination 45: Community and town councils can make payments to each of their members in respect of travel costs for attending approved duties.⁷ Such payments must be the actual costs of travel by public transport or the HMRC mileage allowances as below:

- 45p per mile up to 10,000 miles in the year.
- 25p per mile over 10,000 miles.
- 5p per mile per passenger carried on authority business.
- 24p per mile for private motor cycles.
- 20p per mile for bicycles.

Determination 46: If a community or town council resolves that a particular duty requires an overnight stay, it can authorise reimbursement of subsistence expenses to its members at the maximum rates set out below on the basis of receipted claims:

- £28 per 24-hour period allowance for meals, including breakfast where not provided.
- £200 – London overnight.
- £95 – elsewhere overnight.
- £30 – staying with friends and/or family overnight.

Compensation for financial loss

13.20 The Panel has retained the facility which councils may pay as compensation to their members where they suffer financial loss when attending approved duties. Members must be able to demonstrate that the financial loss has been incurred. Each council has an option to pay compensation for financial loss and where it does the following determination applies.

Determination 47: Community and town councils can pay financial loss compensation to each of their members, where such loss has occurred, for attending approved duties as follows:

- Up to £55.50 for each period not exceeding 4 hours
- Up to £110.00 for each period exceeding 4 hours but not exceeding 24 hours

⁷ Where a member who is on official business or an approved duty is driven by a third party (not a member or officer of that authority), the member can claim mileage at the prescribed rates plus any parking or toll fees provided the authority is satisfied that the member has incurred these costs.

Civic Head and Deputy Civic Head

- 13.21 Civic heads are senior posts within community and town councils. In addition to chairing major meetings the civic head is the ‘ambassador’ representing the council to a variety of institutions and organisations. The Panel requires that members should not have to pay themselves for any cost associated with carrying out these duties. This requirement also applies in respect of deputy civic heads.
- 13.22 The Panel recognises the wide range of provision made for civic heads in respect of transport, secretarial support, charitable giving and clothing – we consider these to be the council’s civic budgets.
- 13.23 Funding decisions in relation to these civic budgets are not matters of personal remuneration for the post holder but relate to the funding required for the tasks and duties to be carried out. Councils remain free to set civic budgets at whatever levels they deem appropriate for the levels of civic leadership they have in place.
- 13.24 For the avoidance of doubt, costs in respect of, for example, transport (physical transport or mileage costs), secretarial support, charitable giving (purchasing tickets, making donations or buying raffle tickets) and clothing are not matters of personal remuneration for the individual holding the senior post. These should be covered by the civic budget.
- 13.25 Recognising that some mayors and chairs of community and town councils and their deputies are very active during their year of office, the Panel has determined that community and town councils can make a payment to the individuals holding these roles.
- 13.26 This is a personal payment to the individual and is entirely separate from covering the costs set out above.
- 13.27 The Panel has determined that the maximum payment to a chair or mayor of a community or town council is £1,500. The maximum payment to a deputy mayor or chair is £500.

Determination 48: Community and town councils can provide a payment to the mayor or chair of the council up to a maximum of £1,500. This is in addition to the £150 payment for costs and expenses and the £500 senior salary if these are claimed.

Determination 49: Community and town councils can provide a payment to the deputy mayor or deputy chair of the council up to a maximum of £500. This is in addition to the £150 payment for costs and expenses and the £500 senior salary if these are claimed.

Making Payments to members

- 13.28 Table 9 sets out each of the above determinations and if a decision is required by the council in respect of each one.
- 13.29 In respect of the mandated payments where no decision is required by a council, members should receive monies to which they are properly entitled as a matter of course.
- 13.30 Where a decision is required by the council, this should be done at the first meeting following receipt of the Annual Report.
- 13.31 A council can adopt any, or all, of the non-mandated determinations but if it does make such a decision, it must apply to all its members.
- 13.32 When payments take effect from is set out in paragraphs 13.36 to 13.38 below.
- 13.33 On receipt of the draft Annual Report the previous autumn, councils should consider the determinations for the next financial year and use this to inform budget plans.

Table 9

Determination Number	Is a decision required by council?
42 All community and town councils must make available a payment to each of their members of £150 per year as a contribution to costs and expenses.	No - the payment of £150 is mandated for every member unless they advise the appropriate officer that they do not want to take it in writing.
43 Community and town councils in Group A must make available an annual payment of £500 each to a minimum of 1 and a maximum of 5 members in recognition of specific responsibilities. This is in addition to the £150 payment for costs and expenses.	Yes – a council must decide how many payments of £500 it will make – to between 1 and 5 members.
44 Community and town councils in Groups B or C can make an annual payment of up to £500 each to up to 5 members in recognition of specific responsibilities. This is in addition to the £150 payment for costs and expenses.	Yes – it is optional to pay it for up to 5 members and, if it is paid, the amount (up to £500) must be decided.
45 Community and town councils can make payments to each of their members in respect of travel costs for attending approved duties.	Yes – the payment of travel costs is optional.

Determination Number	Is a decision required by council?
46 If a community or town council resolves that a particular duty requires an overnight stay, it can authorise reimbursement of subsistence expenses to its members.	Yes – the payment of overnight subsistence expenses is optional.
47 Community and town councils can pay financial loss compensation to each of their members, where such loss has actually occurred, for attending approved duties.	Yes – the payment of financial loss allowance is optional.
48 Community and town councils can provide a payment to the mayor or chair of the council up to a maximum of £1,500.	Yes – the payment to a Civic Head is optional.
49 Community and town councils can provide a payment to the deputy mayor or deputy chair of the council up to a maximum amount of £500.	Yes – the payment to a Deputy Civic Head is optional.
50 Members in receipt of a Band 1 or Band 2 senior salary from a principal council (that is Leader, Deputy Leader or Executive Member) cannot receive any payment from any community or town council, other than travel and subsistence expenses and contribution towards costs of care and personal assistance.	No - Members in receipt of a Band 1 or Band 2 senior salary from a principal council (that is Leader, Deputy Leader or Executive Member) can only receive travel and subsistence expenses and contribution towards costs of care and personal assistance; if they are eligible to claim, and wish to do so.

13.34 All members are eligible to be paid the £150 as set out in Determination 42 from the start of the financial year; unless they are elected later in the financial year, in which case they are eligible for a proportionate payment from that date.

13.35 Other amounts payable to members in recognition of specific responsibilities or as a civic head or deputy civic head as set out in Determinations 43,44, 48 and 49 are payable from the date when the member takes up the role during the financial year.

13.36 It is a matter for each council to make, and record, a policy decision in respect of:

- when the payment is actually made to the member;
- how many payments the total amount payable is broken down into;
- and whether and how to recover any payments made to a member who leaves or changes their role during the financial year.

13.37 Payments in respect of Determinations 43, 44, 45 and 46 are payable when the activity they relate to has taken place.

- 13.38 As stated in paragraph 13.8 any individual member may make a personal decision to elect to forgo part or all of the entitlement to any of these payments by giving notice in writing to the proper officer of the council.

Determination 50: Members in receipt of a Band 1 or Band 2 senior salary from a principal council (that is Leader, Deputy Leader or Executive Member) cannot receive any payment from any community or town council, other than travel and subsistence expenses and contribution towards costs of care and personal assistance.

Publicity requirements

- 13.39 There is a requirement on community and town councils to publish details of all payments made to individual members in an annual Statement of Payments for each financial year. This information must be published on council noticeboards and or websites (with easy access) and provided to the Panel by email or by post no later than 30 September following the end of the previous financial year. The Panel draws attention to the requirements stipulated at Annex 4. The Panel is concerned that a significant number of councils are still in breach of this requirement.

14. Compliance with Panel Requirements

The Panel's remit under the Measure

- 14.1 Section 153 of the Measure empowers the Panel to require a relevant authority⁸ to comply with the requirements imposed on it by an Annual Report of the Panel and further enables the Panel to monitor the compliance of relevant authorities with the Panel's determinations.
- 14.2 A relevant authority must implement the Panel's determinations in this report from the date of its annual meeting or a date specified within the Annual Report.

Monitoring compliance

- 14.3 The Panel will monitor the compliance with the determinations in this Annual Report by relevant authorities against the following requirements:
- (i) A relevant authority must maintain an annual **Schedule of Member Remuneration** (IRPW Regulations 4 and 5). Guidance at Annex 3 sets out the content which must be included in the Schedule.
 - (ii) A relevant authority must make arrangements for the Schedule's publication within the authority area (IRPW Regulation 46) and send the Schedule to the Panel as soon as practicable and not later than 31 July in the year to which it applies. Annex 4 provides further details of the publicity requirements.
 - (iii) Any amendments to the Schedule made during the year must be notified to the Panel as soon as possible after the amendment is made.

Note: The above requirements do not apply to Community and Town Councils at this time.

The following applies to all authorities including Community and Town Councils.

- (iv) A relevant authority must make arrangements for publication within the authority area of the total sum paid by it in the previous financial year to each member and co-opted member in respect of salary (basic, senior and civic), allowances, fees and reimbursements in a Statement of Payments (in accordance with Annex 4 that sets out the content that must be included in the Publicity Requirements). This must be published as soon as practicable and no later than 30 September following the end of the previous financial year- **and must also be submitted to the Panel no later than that date.**

⁸ Interpretation of "Relevant Authority" provided in the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (IRPW) Regulations, Part 1, 'Interpretation'.

15. Salaries of Heads of Paid Service of Principal Councils and Fire and Rescue Authorities and Chief Officers of Principal Councils

- 15.1 Section 63 of the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013 amended the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 by inserting section 143A. This enables the Panel to take a view on anything in the Pay Policy Statements of these authorities that relates to the salary of the head of paid service (normally the Head of Paid Service or chief fire officer). Section 39 of the Local Government (Wales) Act 2015 further amended the Measure extending this function to include Chief Officers of Principal Councils. However, this function ceased on 31 March 2020.
- 15.2 The Welsh Government issued amended guidance to the Panel which can be found at [Amended Guidance to the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales under Section 143A of the Local Government \(Wales\) Measure 2011 and Section 39 of the Local Government \(Wales\) Act 2015](#). This sets the basis on which the Panel will carry out the function contained in the legislation.
- 15.3 The functions of the Panel and the requirements on authorities established by the legislation and the subsequent guidance are:
- a) If a principal council intends to change the salary of the head of paid service, or if a fire and rescue authority intends to change the salary of its head of paid service it must consult the Panel unless the change is in keeping with changes applied to other officers of that authority (whether the change is an increase or decrease). 'Salary' includes payments under a contract for services as well as payments of salary under an employment contract.
 - b) The authority must have regard to the recommendation(s) of the Panel when reaching its decision.
 - c) The Panel may seek any information that it considers necessary to reach a conclusion and produce a recommendation. The authority is obliged to provide the information sought by the Panel.
 - d) The Panel may publish any recommendation that it makes. It is the intention that, in the interests of transparency, it will normally do so.
 - e) The Panel's recommendation(s) could indicate:
 - approval of the authority's proposal
 - express concerns about the proposal
 - recommend variations to the proposal

As long as these comply with any guidance issued by the Welsh Government.

- 15.4 The Panel also has a general power to review the Pay Policy Statements of

authorities so far as they relate to the heads of paid service.

15.5 It is important to note the Panel will not decide the amount an individual head of paid service will receive.

15.6 The Panel is very aware that this function is significantly different from its statutory responsibilities in relation to members' remuneration. However, it undertakes this role with clarity and openness, taking into account all the relevant factors in respect of specific individual cases. Authorities are encouraged to consult the Panel at an early stage in their decision making on such matters. This will enable the Panel to respond in a timely manner.

Pay Policy Statements

Paragraph 3.7 of the guidance to the Panel from the Welsh Government states that "The legislation does not restrict the Panel to a reactive role". It allows the Panel to use its power to make recommendations relating to provisions within local authorities Pay Policy Statements.

Changes to the salaries of chief officers of principal councils – Panel decisions 2020

Letters issued to the Local Authorities notifying them of the Panel decision can be found on the [Panel website](#).

Name of Local Authority	Proposal	Panel decision
Neath Port Talbot Council	Head of Children and Young People's Services	Referred for further information

Annex 1: The Panel's Determinations for 2021/22

Principal Councils	
1.	Basic salary in 2021/22 for elected members of principal councils shall be £14,368 with effect from 1 April 2021.
2.	Senior salary levels in 2021/22 for members of principal councils shall be as set out in Table 3 with effect from 1 April 2021.
3.	Where paid, a civic head must be paid a Band 3 salary of £23,161 and, where paid, a deputy civic head must be paid a Band 5 salary of £18,108 with effect from 1 April 2021.
4.	Where appointed and if remunerated, a presiding member must be paid a Band 3 senior salary of £23,161.
5.	The post of deputy presiding member will not be remunerated.
6.	<p>a) An elected member must not be remunerated for more than one senior post within their authority.</p> <p>b) An elected member must not be paid a senior salary and a civic salary.</p> <p>c) All senior and civic salaries are paid inclusive of basic salary.</p> <p>d) If a council chooses to have more than one remunerated deputy leader, the difference between the senior salary for the deputy leader and other executive members should be divided by the number of deputy leaders and added to the senior salary for other executive members in order to calculate the senior salary payable to each deputy leader.</p>
7.	Members in receipt of a Band 1 or Band 2 senior salary cannot receive a salary from any NPA or FRA to which they have been appointed. They remain eligible to claim travel and subsistence expenses and contribution towards costs of care and personal assistance from the NPA or FRA.
8.	Members in receipt of a Band 1 or Band 2 salary cannot receive any payment from a Community or Town Council of which they are a member. They remain eligible to claim travel and subsistence expenses and contribution towards costs of care and personal assistance from the Community or Town Council. Where this situation applies, it is the responsibility of the individual member to comply.
9.	Each authority, through its Democratic Services Committee, must ensure that all its elected members are given as much support as is necessary to enable them to fulfil their duties effectively. All elected members should be provided with adequate telephone, email and internet facilities giving electronic access to appropriate information.

10.	Such support should be without cost to the individual member. Deductions must not be made from members' salaries by the respective authority as a contribution towards the cost of support which the authority has decided necessary for the effectiveness and or efficiency of members.
Specific or Additional Senior Salaries	
11.	Principal Councils can apply for specific or additional senior salaries that do not fall within the current Remuneration Framework.
Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committees (JOSC)	
12.	The salary level for a Chair of a Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee shall be £8,793.
13.	The salary level for a Vice Chair of a Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee shall be £4,396.
Local Government Pension Scheme	
14.	The entitlement to join the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) shall apply to all eligible elected members of principal councils.
Family Absence	
15.	An elected member is entitled to retain a basic salary when taking family absence under the original regulations or any amendment to the regulations irrespective of the attendance record immediately preceding the commencement of the family absence.
16.	When a senior salary holder is eligible for family absence, they will continue to receive the salary for the duration of the absence.
17.	It is a matter for the authority to decide whether or not to make a substitute appointment. The elected member substituting for a senior salary holder taking family absence will be eligible to be paid a senior salary, if the authority so decides.
18.	If the paid substitution results in the authority exceeding the maximum number of senior salaries which relates to it, as set out in the Panel's Annual Report, an addition to the maximum will be allowed for the duration of the substitution. However, this will not apply to the Isle of Anglesey or Merthyr Tydfil Councils if it would result in the number of senior salaries exceeding fifty percent of the Council membership. Specific approval of Welsh Ministers is required in such circumstances.
19.	When a Council agrees a paid substitution for family absence the Panel must be informed within 14 days of the date of the decision, of the details including the particular post and the duration of the substitution.
20.	The Council's schedule of remuneration must be amended to reflect the implication of the family absence.

National Park Authorities	
21.	The basic salary for NPA ordinary members shall be £4,053 with effect from 1 April 2021.
22.	The senior salary of the Chair of a NPA shall be £12,845 with effect from 1 April 2021.
23.	A NPA senior salary of £7,792 must be paid to a Deputy Chair where appointed.
24.	Committee chairs or other senior posts can be paid. This shall be paid at £7,792.
25.	Members must not receive more than one NPA senior salary.
26.	A NPA senior salary is paid inclusive of the NPA basic salary.
27.	Members of a principal council in receipt of a Band 1 or Band 2 senior salary cannot receive a salary from any NPA to which they have been appointed. Where this situation applies, it is the responsibility of the individual member to comply.
Fire and Rescue Authorities	
28.	The basic salary for FRA ordinary members shall be £2,026 with effect from 1 April 2021.
29.	The senior salary of the chair of a FRA shall be £10,818 with effect from 1 April 2021.
30.	A FRA senior salary of £5,765 must be paid to the Deputy Chair where appointed.
31.	Chairs of Committees or other senior posts can be paid. This shall be paid at £5,765.
32.	Members must not receive more than one FRA senior salary.
33.	A FRA senior salary is paid inclusive of the FRA basic salary and must reflect significant and sustained responsibility.
34.	Members of a principal council in receipt of a Band 1 or Band 2 senior salary cannot receive a salary from any FRA to which they have been nominated. Where this situation applies, it is the responsibility of the individual member to comply.
Co-opted Members	
35.	Principal councils, NPAs and FRAs must pay the fees to co-opted members (who have voting rights) as set out in Table 6.
36.	Reasonable time for pre meeting preparation is to be included in claims made by co-opted members the extent of which can be determined by the appropriate officer in advance of the meeting.

37.	Travelling time to and from the place of the meeting is to be included in the claims for payments made by co-opted members (up to the maximum of the daily rate).
38.	The appropriate officer within the authority must determine in advance whether a meeting is programmed for a full day and the fee will be paid on the basis of this determination even if the meeting finishes before four hours has elapsed.
39.	Fees must be paid for meetings and other activities including other committees and working groups (including task and finish groups), pre-meetings with officers, training and attendance at conferences or any other formal meeting to which co-opted members are requested to attend.
40.	Each authority, through its Democratic Services Committee or other appropriate committee, must ensure that all voting co-opted members are given as much support as is necessary to enable them to fulfil their duties effectively. Such support should be without cost to the individual member.
Contribution towards costs of care and personal assistance	
41.	<p>All relevant authorities must provide a payment towards necessary costs for the care of dependent children and adults (provided by informal or formal carers) and for personal assistance needs as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal (registered with Care Inspectorate Wales) care costs to be paid as evidenced. • Informal (unregistered) care costs to be paid up to a maximum rate equivalent to the Real UK Living Wage at the time the costs are incurred. <p>This must be for the additional costs incurred by members to enable them to carry out official business or approved duties. Each authority must ensure that any payments made are appropriately linked to official business or approved duty. Payment shall only be made on production of receipts from the care provider.</p>
Community and Town Councils	
42.	All Community and Town councils must make available a payment to each of their members of £150 per year as a contribution to costs and expenses.
43.	Community and Town councils in Group A must make available an annual payment of £500 each to a minimum of 1 and a maximum of 5 members in recognition of specific responsibilities. This is in addition to the £150 payment for costs and expenses.
44.	Community and Town councils in Groups B or C can make an annual payment of £500 each to up to 5 members in recognition of specific responsibilities. This is in addition to the £150 payment for costs and expenses.

45.	<p>Community and Town councils can make payments to each of their members in respect of travel costs for attending approved duties.⁹ Such payments must be the actual costs of travel by public transport or the HMRC mileage allowances as below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 45p per mile up to 10,000 miles in the year. • 25p per mile over 10,000 miles. • 5p per mile per passenger carried on authority business. • 24p per mile for private motor cycles. • 20p per mile for bicycles.
46.	<p>If a Community or Town council resolves that a particular duty requires an overnight stay, it can authorise reimbursement of subsistence expenses to its members at the maximum rates set out below on the basis of receipted claims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £28 per 24-hour period allowance for meals, including breakfast where not provided. • £200 – London overnight. • £95 – elsewhere overnight. • £30 – staying with friends and or family overnight.
47.	<p>Community and Town councils can pay financial loss compensation to each of their members, where such loss has occurred, for attending approved duties as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to £55.50 for each period not exceeding 4 hours. • Up to £110.00 for each period exceeding 4 hours but not exceeding 24 hours.
48.	<p>Community and Town councils can provide a payment to the mayor or chair of the council up to a maximum of £1,500. This is in addition to the £150 payment for costs and expenses and the £500 senior salary if these are claimed.</p>
49.	<p>Community and Town councils can provide a payment to the deputy mayor or deputy chair of the council up to a maximum of £500. This is in addition to the £150 payment for costs and expenses and the £500 senior salary if these are claimed.</p>
50.	<p>Members in receipt of a Band 1 or Band 2 senior salary from a principal council (that is Leader, Deputy Leader or Executive Member) cannot receive any payment from any community or town council, other than travel and subsistence expenses and contribution towards costs of care and personal assistance.</p>

⁹ Where a member who is on official business or an approved duty is driven by a third party (not a member or officer of that authority), the member can claim mileage at the prescribed rates plus any parking or toll fees provided the authority is satisfied that the member has incurred these costs.

Annex 2: Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (IRPW) Regulations:

- a) For the remuneration of members and co-opted members of relevant authorities**
- b) For functions relating to the salaries of Heads of Paid Service of Principal Councils and Fire and Rescue Authorities**

Introduction

Part 8 (sections 141 to 160) and schedules 2 and 3 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 (*the Measure*) set out the arrangements for the payments and pensions for members of relevant authorities and the functions and responsibilities of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (the Panel).

Sections 62 to 67 of the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013 amends sections 142, 143, 144, 147, 148 and 151 of the Measure and confers additional powers on the Panel.

The powers contained in part 8 and schedules 2 and 3 of the Measure (as amended) have replaced the following Statutory Instruments:

- The Local Authorities (Allowances for Members of County and County Borough Councils and National Park Authorities) (Wales) Regulations 2002 (No. 1895 (W.196)).
- The Local Authorities (Allowances for Members of Fire Authorities) (Wales) Regulations 2004 (No. 2555 (W.227)).
- The Local Authorities (Allowances for Members) (Wales) Regulations 2007 (No.1086 (W.115)).

The Measure also has replaced the sections of the Local Government Act 1972, the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government Act 2000 relating to payments to councillors in Wales.

Payments for members of community and town councils are set out in Part 5 of these Regulations. The Local Authorities (Allowances for Members of Community Councils) (Wales) Regulations 2003 (No. 895(W.115)) were revoked from 1 April 2013.

Part 1

General

1. a. The short title of these Regulations is: “IRPW Regulations”.
b. These IRPW Regulations came into force on 1 April 2021 and replace

those in force from 1 April 2012. The implementation date for each of the relevant authorities is set out in the Annual Report or Supplementary Report of the Panel.

- c. Authorities are required to produce a schedule of payments to members and co-opted members no later than the 31 July each year, for submission to the Panel and publication (see paragraph 46).

Interpretation

2. In the IRPW Regulations:

- “The 1972 Act” means the Local Government Act 1972.
- “The 2000 Act” means the Local Government Act 2000.
- “The 2013 Act” means the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013.
- “Payment” means the actual or maximum amount which may be paid to members and co-opted members of a relevant authority for expenses necessarily incurred when carrying out the official business of the relevant authority.
- “Annual Report” means a report produced by the Panel in accordance with section 145 of the Measure.
- “Approved duty” in relation to community and town councils has the meaning as set out in Part 5 of these Regulations.
- “Authority” means a relevant authority in Wales as defined in Section 144(2) of the Measure and includes a principal council (county or county borough council), a national park authority and a Welsh fire and rescue authority, a community or town council.
- “Basic Salary” has the same meaning as set out in paragraph 6 of these Regulations, and may be qualified as “LA Basic Salary” to refer to the basic salary of a member of a principal council; “NPA Basic Salary” to refer to the basic salary of a member of a national park authority; and “FRA Basic Salary” to refer to the basic salary of a member of a Welsh fire and rescue authority.
- “Chief Officer” of a principal council has the meaning as defined in the Localism Act 2011.
- “Civic Head” is the person elected by the council to carry out the functions of the chair of that council and is designated as mayor or chair.
- “Committee” includes a sub-committee.
- “Community or town council” means in relation to Part 8 of the Measure, a community council as defined in section 33 of the Local Government Act 1972 or a town council in accord with section 245B of the same Act.

- “Consultation draft” means the draft of an Annual or Supplementary report under Section 146 (7) or 147(8) of the Measure. The Panel must take account of these representations.
- “Constituent authority” – for national park authorities this is a principal council falling within the area of a national park authority; for Welsh fire and rescue authorities it is a principal council falling within the area of a fire and rescue authority.
- “Contribution to Costs of Care and Personal Assistance” has the same meaning as set out in paragraph 21 of these Regulations.
- “Controlling group” means a political group in a principal council where any of its members form part of the executive.
- “Co-opted Member” has the meaning contained in section 144 (5) of the Measure, that is those with the right to vote on matters within the remit of the committee on which they serve.
- “Co-opted Member payment” has the same meaning as set out in paragraph 19 of these Regulations.
- “Democratic Services Committee” means the principal council committee established under section 11 of the Measure.
- “Deputy Civic Head” is a person elected by the council to deputise for the mayor or chair of that council.
- “Executive” means the executive of an authority in a form as specified in sections 11(2) to (5) of the 2000 Act, as amended by section 34 of the Measure.
- “Executive arrangements” has the meaning given by section 10(1) of the 2000 Act.
- “Family absence” as defined in Section 142 (2) (b) of the Measure has the meaning given to it by Part 2 of the Measure, and the related Regulations
- “Financial Loss Allowance in relation to community or town councils has the meaning as set out in Part 5 of the Regulations.
- “Fire and rescue authority” means an authority constituted by a scheme under section 2 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 or a scheme to which section 4 of that Act applies.
- “Head of paid service” means as designated under section 4(1) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.
- Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee means a committee or subcommittee set up by two or more principal councils under the Local Authority (Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committees) (Wales) Regulations 2013.
- “Largest opposition group” means a political group other than a controlling group which has a greater number of members than any other political group in the authority.

- “Member” means a person who serves on an authority.
 - For a principal council or a community or town council a “Member” may be:
 - An “Elected Member” which means a person who has been elected to serve as a councillor for that authority. It is possible for a person to hold an elected office if, further to the completion of an election, no candidate has presented and a person holds that office subject to proper process.
 - A ‘Co-opted Member’ which means a person who has been placed into membership of a council committee or to discharge a function subject to proper process.
 - For a national park authority, a “Member” means a person appointed by a constituent authority and a person appointed by Welsh Ministers.
 - For Welsh fire and rescue authorities a “Member” means a person appointed by a constituent authority.
- “National Park Authority” means a national park authority established under section 63 of the Environment Act 1995.
- “Official business” has the meaning contained in Section 142 (10) of the Measure in relation to the reimbursement of care, travel and subsistence costs necessarily incurred by members and co-opted members of a relevant authority (excluding community and town councils) when:
 - a. Attending a meeting of the authority or any committee of the authority or any other body to which the authority makes appointments or nominations or of any committee of such a body.
 - b. Attending a meeting of any association of authorities of which the authority is a member.
 - c. Attending a meeting the holding of which is authorised by the authority or by a committee of the authority or by a joint committee of the authority and one or more other authorities.
 - d. Attending any training or development event approved by the authority or its executive.
 - e. A duty undertaken for the purpose of or in connection with the discharge of the functions of an executive within the meaning of Part 2 of the 2000 Act, as amended.
 - f. A duty undertaken in pursuance of a standing order which requires a member or members to be present when tender documents are opened.
 - g. A duty undertaken in connection with the discharge of any function of the authority to inspect or authorise the inspection of premises.
 - h. A duty undertaken by members of principal councils in connection with constituency or ward responsibilities which arise from the discharge of principal council functions.

- i. Any other duty approved by the authority, or any duty of class so approved, undertaken for the purpose of, or in connection with, the discharge of the functions of the authority or any of its committees.
- “Other political group” means a political group other than a controlling group or the largest opposition group (if any) which comprises not less than ten per cent of the members of that authority.
- “Overview and Scrutiny Committee” means a committee of the authority which has the powers set out in sections 21(2) and (3) of the 2000 Act, as amended by Part 6 of the Measure.
- “Panel” means the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales as set out in section 141(1) and schedule 2 of the Measure.
- “Pay policy statement” means a statement produced by a relevant authority under section 38 of the Localism Act 2011.
- ‘Political group’ may be formed from members of a recognised political party or be a group of independent members unaffiliated to any recognised political party. “Presiding Member” means a member of a principal council who has been designated by that council to carry out functions in relation to the chairing of its meetings and proceedings.
- “Principal Council” is as defined by the 1972 Act and means a county or county borough council.
- “Proper officer” has the same meaning as in section 270(3) of the 1972 Act. In community and town councils, the ‘Proper Officer’ may be the clerk or other official appointed for that purpose. “Public body” means a body as defined in section 67(b) of the 2013 Act.
- “Qualifying provision” means a provision that makes a variation to a previous decision of the Panel. (Section 65 (c) of the 2013 Act).
- “Qualifying relevant authority” is an authority within the meaning of section 63 of the 2013 Act, required to produce a pay policy statement.
- “Relevant authority” is set out in Section 144(2) of the Measure (as amended) and in section 64 of the 2013 Act and, for the purposes of these Regulations, includes a principal council, a community or town council, a national park authority and a Welsh fire and rescue authority.
- “Relevant matters” are as defined in Section 142(2) of the Measure.
- “Schedule” means a list setting out the authority’s decisions in respect of payments to be made during the year (as relating to that authority) to all members and co-opted members of that authority.
- “Senior Salary” has the same meaning as set out in paragraph 11 of these Regulations and may be qualified as “Principal council Senior Salary” to refer to the senior salary of a member of a principal council; “National Park Senior Salary” to refer to the senior salary of a member of a national park authority; or “Fire and Rescue authority Senior Salary” to refer to the senior salary of a member of a Fire and Rescue authority.
- “Sickness absence” means the arrangements as set out in the Annual Report.

- “Supplementary report” has the meaning contained in section 146(4 to 8) of the Measure.
- “Travelling and subsistence payment” has the same meaning as set out in paragraph 25 of these Regulations.
- “Year” has the following meanings:
 - “financial year” – the period of twelve months ending 31 March;
 - “calendar year” – the period of twelve months ending 31 December;
 - “municipal year” – the year commencing on the date of the annual meeting of the authority and ending the day before the annual meeting of the following year; for national park authorities and Welsh fire and rescue authorities it is the period of up to twelve months following the annual meeting of the authority.

Part 2: Schedule of member or co-opted member payments

Commencement of term of office

3. The term of office of:
 - An elected member of a principal council or community or town council begins 4 days following the election subject to making the declaration of acceptance of that office under section 83(1) of the 1972 Act.
 - A councillor member of a national park authority begins on the date on which that member is appointed as such by a constituent authority and the term of office of a Welsh Government appointed member begins on the date of that appointment. The term of office of the chair and deputy chair of the national park authority begins on their acceptance of that office further to being either elected or appointed as a chair or deputy chair of a national park authority.
 - A councillor member of a Welsh fire and rescue authority begins on the date on which that member is appointed as such by a constituent authority and the term of office of the chair and deputy chair of the fire and rescue authority begins on the date of election by that authority to that office.
 - A co-opted member of a relevant authority begins on the date of appointment by the relevant authority.

Schedule of payments to members (the Schedule) (does not apply to community or town councils – see Part 5)

4. An authority must produce annually, a schedule of payments it intends to make to its members and co-opted members. The amount of those payments must accord with the Panel’s determinations made for that year in its Annual or Supplementary Reports. The Schedule must be produced no later than four weeks following the annual meeting of the authority.

Amendment to the Schedule

5. An authority may amend the Schedule at any time during the year (as relating to the authority) provided that such amendments accord with the Panel's determinations for that year.

Basic salary

6. An authority must provide for the payment of a basic salary, as determined by the Panel in its Annual or Supplementary Reports, to each of its members. The amount of the salary must be the same for each member. For principal councils only, this salary remains payable during a period of family absence.
7. A member may not receive more than one basic salary from a relevant authority, but a member of one relevant authority may receive a further basic salary by being appointed as a member of another relevant authority (except in the case as indicated in paragraph 16).
8. The amount of the basic salary will be set in accordance with Section 142(3) of the Measure and will be one of the following:
 - The amount the authority must pay to a member of the authority.
 - The maximum amount that the authority may pay to a member of the authority.
9. Where the term of office of a member begins or ends other than at the beginning or end of the year (as relating to the authority), the entitlement of that member is to such proportion of the basic salary as the number of days during which the member's term of office subsists during that year bears to the number of days in that year.
10. Where a member is suspended or partially suspended from being a member of an authority (Part 3 of the 2000 Act refers) the part of the basic salary payable to that member in respect of the responsibilities or duties from which that member is suspended or partially suspended must be withheld by the authority. Payment must also be withheld if directed by the Welsh Ministers (Section 155(1) of the Measure).

Senior salary

11. Subject to paragraphs 12 to 18 an authority can make payments of a senior salary to members that it has given specific responsibilities. Such payments must accord with the Panel's determination for the year (as relating to the authority) that the payments are made and must be set out in the Schedule of that authority. For principal councils only, a senior salary will remain payable during the family absence of the office holder.
12. The Panel will prescribe in its Annual or Supplementary Reports the following:
 - The categories of members eligible for the payment of a senior salary

which may not be the same for all authorities or categories of authorities.

- The discretion available to authorities in relation to the payment of senior salaries which may not be the same for all authorities or categories of authorities.
13. The amount of the senior salaries payable will be in accordance with section 142(3) of the Measure and specify:
- The amount that a relevant authority must pay to a member of the authority.
 - The maximum amount that a relevant authority may pay to a member of the authority.
14. The Senior Salary will comprise an amalgam of the basic salary and an additional amount for the relevant specific responsibility determined by the Panel in its Annual or Supplementary Reports. This may not be the same for all authorities or categories of authorities.
15. The Panel in its Annual or Supplementary Reports will determine either the maximum proportion of its membership or the total number of members that an authority can pay as senior salaries. The percentage may not exceed fifty percent without the express approval of Welsh Ministers (Section 142(5) of the Measure). For principal councils only, the maximum proportion or number may be exceeded to include payment of a senior salary to an additional member who is appointed to provide temporary cover for the family absence of a senior salary office holder (subject to the 50% limit).
- 15(a). For, Fire and Rescue Authorities and National Park Authorities the maximum proportion or number may be exceeded to include the payment of a senior salary to an additional member who is appointed to provide temporary cover for the sickness absence of a senior salary holder as determined in the Annual Report or a Supplementary Report.
- 15(b). Payments to chairs of Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committees or Sub Committees are additional to the maximum proportion of its membership that an authority can pay as senior salaries subject to the overall maximum of fifty percent as contained in Section 142(5) of the Measure. The Panel will determine the amounts of such payments in an Annual or Supplementary Report.
16. An authority must not pay more than one senior salary to any member. A principal council member in receipt of a senior salary as leader or executive member of an authority (determined as full-time by the Panel) may not receive a second salary as a member appointed to serve on a national park authority or a Welsh fire and rescue authority.
- 16(a). Paragraph 16 does not apply to payments made to a chair of a Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee or Sub Committee who is in receipt of a senior salary for a role that is not classified as full time equivalent. It continues to apply to leaders or members of the executive.

17. Where a member does not have, throughout the year specific responsibilities that allow entitlement to a senior salary, that member's payment is to be such proportion of the salary as the number of days during which that member has such special responsibility bears to the number of days in that year.
18. Where a member is suspended or partially suspended from being a member of the authority (Part 3 of the 2000 Act refers) the authority must not make payments of the member's senior salary for the duration of the suspension (Section 155(1) of the Measure). If the partial suspension relates only to the specific responsibility element of the payment, the member may retain the basic salary. Payment must also be withheld if directed by the Welsh Ministers.

Co-opted member payment

19. A relevant authority must provide for payments to a co-opted member as determined by the Panel in its Annual or Supplementary Reports. In relation to this regulation 'co-opted member' means a member as determined in Section 144(5) of the Measure and set out in paragraph 2 of these Regulations.
20. Where a co-opted member is suspended or partially suspended from an authority (Part 3 of the 2000 Act refers) the authority must not make payment of a co-opted member fee for the duration of the suspension (Section 155(1) of the Measure).

Payments Contribution to Costs of Care and Personal Assistance

21. Authorities must provide for the payment to members and co-opted members of an authority the reimbursement in respect of such expenses of arranging the care of children or dependants or for the individual member as are necessarily incurred in carrying out official business as a member or co-opted member of that authority. Payments under this paragraph must not be made:
 - In respect of any child over the age of fifteen years or dependant unless the member or co-opted member satisfies the authority that the child or dependant required supervision which has caused the member to incur expenses that were necessary in respect of the care of that child or dependant in the carrying out of the duties of a member or co-opted member.
 - To more than one member or co-opted member of the authority in relation to the care of the same child or dependant for the same episode of care.
 - Of more than one reimbursement for care to a member or co-opted member of the authority who is unable to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the authority that the member or co-opted member has to make separate arrangements for the care of different children or dependants.

22. The arrangements in respect of the contribution to cost of care and personal assistance payable by an authority is to be determined by the Panel in its Annual or Supplementary Reports.
23. Where a member or co-opted member is suspended or partially suspended from being a member or co-opted member of the authority (Part 3 of the 2000 Act refers) the part of the contribution to the cost of care and personal assistance payable to that member or co-opted member in receipt of the responsibilities or duties from which that member or co-opted member is suspended or partially suspended must be withheld by the authority. Payment must also be withheld if directed by the Welsh Ministers for reasons other than suspension (Section 155(1) of the Measure).
24. An authority's Schedule must stipulate the arrangements regarding the contribution towards costs of care and personal assistance payable and its arrangements for making claims, taking full account of the Panel's determinations in this respect.

Travel and subsistence payments

25. Subject to paragraphs 26 and 27 below a member or co-opted member is entitled to receive payments from the authority by way of travelling and subsistence payments at rates determined by the Panel in its Annual or Supplementary Reports. Such payments are in respect of expenditure incurred by a member or co-opted member in the performance of the official business within or outside the boundary of the authority.

(Paragraphs 26 & 27 apply only to principal councils)

26. Payment of a subsistence payment to a principal council member for the performance of official business within the boundaries of a county or county borough where they are a member should only be made when the authority is satisfied that it can be justified on economic grounds. This does not apply in respect of co-opted members of a council who live outside that authority.
27. A principal council may make provision, subject to any limitations it thinks fit, for members to claim mileage expenses for official business in connection with constituency or ward responsibilities where they arise out of the discharge of the functions of the county or county borough.
28. Where a member or co-opted member is suspended or partially suspended from being a member or co-opted member of the authority (Part 3 of the 2000 Act refers), travelling and subsistence payments payable to that member or co-opted member in respect of the responsibilities or duties from which that member is suspended or partially suspended must be withheld by the authority. Payment must also be withheld if directed by the Welsh Ministers for reasons other than suspension (Section 155(1) of the Measure).

Part 3: Further provisions

Pensions

29. Under Section 143 of the Measure, the Panel may make determinations in respect of pension arrangements for principal council members in its Annual or Supplementary Reports. Such determinations may:
- Define which members for whom the principal council will be required to pay a pension.
 - Describe the relevant matters in respect of which a local authority will be required to pay a pension.
 - Make different decisions for different principal councils.

Payments to support the function of an authority member

30. An authority must provide for the requirements of a member to undertake their role and responsibilities more effectively. The way in which this support should be provided is determined by the Panel in its Annual or Supplementary Reports.

Arrangements in relation to family absence

31. Part 2 of the Measure sets out the rights of principal council members in relation to family absence. The Panel will set out its determinations and the administrative arrangements in relation to these payments in its Annual or Supplementary Reports.

Sickness Absence

32. Arrangements for long-term sickness absence of senior salary holders of principal councils, Fire and Rescue Authorities and National Park Authorities will be as set out in the Panel's Annual Report or Supplementary Report.

Part 4: Payments

Repayment of payments

33. An authority can require that such part of a payment be repaid where payment has already been made in respect of any period during which the member or co-opted member concerned:
- a. is suspended or partially suspended from that member's or co-opted member's duties or responsibilities in accordance with Part 3 of the 2000 Act or Regulations made under that Act.
 - b. ceases to be a member or co-opted member of the authority.

- c. or in any way is not entitled to receive a salary, allowance or fee in respect of that period.

Forgoing payments

- 34. Under Section 154 of the Measure, any member or co-opted member may by notice in writing to the proper officer of the authority elect to forgo any part of their entitlement to a payment under the determination of the Panel for that particular year (as relating to the authority).

Part 5: Specific provisions relating to community and town councils (“the council”)

Interpretation

- 35. For the purposes of this Part the term member means both an elected member and a co-opted member.

Payments

- 36. Payments
 - a) The Annual Report or a Supplementary Report determines the arrangements and amount of an annual payment to members in respect of costs incurred in carrying out the role of a member and if appropriate take account of the variation in size or financial circumstances of different councils.
 - b) The council may make payments to members in respect of costs of travel for attending approved duties within or outside the area of the council. The amounts claimable will be set out in the Annual or Supplementary Report of the Panel.
 - c) The council may reimburse subsistence costs to its members when attending approved duties within or outside the area of the council. The arrangements for reimbursement will be set out in the Annual or Supplementary Report of the Panel.
 - d) The council may pay compensation for Financial Loss to its members where such loss has occurred for attending approved duties within or outside the area of the council. The payments will be set out in the Annual or Supplementary Report of the Panel.
 - e) The council may make a payment to the chair or mayor and deputy chair or mayor of the council for the purposes of undertaking the role of that office. The payment will be set out in the Annual or Supplementary Report of the Panel.
 - f) The Annual Report or a Supplementary Report determines the arrangements for payments to members of a council who undertake senior roles and if appropriate take account of the variation in size or financial circumstances of different councils.

- g) The council must reimburse the contribution to costs of care and personal assistance to a member if claimed, as determined in the Annual Report of the Panel.
37. A member may elect to forgo any part of an entitlement to payment under these Regulations by giving notice in writing to the proper officer of the council.
38. A member making a claim for compensation for Financial Loss must sign a statement that the member has not made and will not make any other claim in respect of the matter to which the claim relates.
39. “Approved Duty” under this Part means
- i. Attendance at a meeting of the council or of any committee or sub-committee of the council or of any other body to which the council makes appointments or nominations or of any committee or sub-committee of such a body.
 - ii. Attendance at any other meeting the holding of which is authorised by the council or a committee or sub-committee of the council, or a joint committee of the council and one or more councils, or a sub-committee of such a joint committee provided that at least two members of the council have been invited and where the council is divided into political groupings at least two such groups have been invited.
 - iii. Attendance at a meeting of any association of councils of which the council is a member.
 - iv. Attendance at any training or development event approved by the council.
 - v. Any other duty approved by the council or duty of a class approved by the council for the discharge of its functions or any of its committees or sub-committees.

Part 6: Miscellaneous

Arrangements for payments

40. The Schedule of an authority must set out the arrangements for payment to all members and co-opted members of that authority. Such payments may be made at such times and at such intervals as determined by the authority.

Claims

41. An authority must specify a time limit from the date on which an entitlement to travelling or subsistence payments arise during which a claim for must be made by the person to whom they are payable. However, this does not prevent an authority from making a payment where the allowance is not claimed within the period specified.

42. Any claim for payment of travelling, subsistence or care costs in accordance with these Regulations (excluding claims for travel by private vehicle or bicycle) shall be accompanied by appropriate receipts proving actual cost.

Avoidance of duplication

43. A claim for a payment of travelling, subsistence or care costs must include, or be accompanied by, a statement signed by the member or co-opted member that the member or co-opted member has not made and will not make any other claim in respect of the matter to which the claim relates.

Records of payments

44. An authority must keep a record of the payments made in accordance with these Regulations as set out in an Annual or Supplementary Report.

Publicity requirements

(The required content of publicity requirements is contained in an annex to the Annual Report)

45. An authority must, as soon as practicable after determining its Schedule of Remuneration for the year under these Regulations and any Report of the Panel and not later than 31 July of the year to which the Schedule refers, arrange for the Schedule's publication within the authority's area and to notify the Panel. **(This section does not apply to community and town councils).**
46. As soon as practicable and no later than 30 September following the end of the financial year **all relevant authorities** must publicise within the authority's area and notify the Panel:
- the total sum paid by it to each member or co-opted member in respect of basic salary, senior salary, co-opted member fee, travel and subsistence payments.
 - the total expenditure on contribution towards costs of care and personal assistance.
47. In the same timescale and in the same manner, an authority must publicise any further remuneration received by a member nominated or appointed to another relevant authority. **(This section applies only to principal councils).**

Publicising the reports of the Panel

48. Under Section 146(7) (a) and (b) of the Measure, the Panel will send a consultation draft of its Annual Report or Supplementary Report to all relevant authorities for circulation to authority members and co-opted members, so that representations can be made by members and co-opted members to the Panel, normally in a period of eight weeks.
49. The Panel will determine in its Annual or Supplementary Reports the arrangements publicising its Reports in accordance with Section 151 and 152 of the Measure.

Monitoring compliance with the Panel's determinations

50. Section 153 of the Measure determines that relevant authorities must comply with the requirements imposed by the Panel in its Annual Reports. It also empowers the Panel to monitor the payments made by relevant authorities and for it to require the provision of information that it specifies. The requirements under this section will be set out in the Annual Report of the Panel.

Annex 3: Schedule of Member Remuneration

1. Principal councils, national park authorities (NPAs) and Welsh fire and rescue authorities (FRAs) (but not community and town councils) must maintain an annual Schedule of Member Remuneration (the 'Schedule') which is in accord with the Panel's determinations on member salary and co-opted member payments and which must contain the following information:

In respect of a principal council:

- a. Named members who are to receive only the basic salary and the amount to be paid.
- b. Named members who are to receive a Band 1 and Band 2 senior salary, the office and portfolio held and the amount to be paid.
- c. Named members who are to receive a Band 3, Band 4 and Band 5 senior salary, the office and portfolio held and the amount to be paid.
- d. Named members who are to receive a civic salary and the amount to be paid.
- e. Named members who are to receive the co-opted member fee and whether chair or ordinary member and the amount to be paid.
- f. Named members who are to receive a senior salary as a chair of a Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee or Sub Committee and the amount to be paid.
- g. Named members in receipt of a specific or additional senior salary approved by the Panel and the amount to be paid.

In respect of National Park and Fire and Rescue Authorities:

- a. Named members who are to receive a basic salary and the amount to be paid.
 - b. Named member who is to receive a senior salary as a chair of the authority and the amount to be paid.
 - c. Named members who are to receive a senior salary as deputy chair of the authority or a committee chair and the amount to be paid.
 - d. Named members who are to receive the co-opted member fee and whether a chair or ordinary member and the amounts to be paid.
2. Amendments made to the Schedule during the municipal year must be communicated to the Panel as soon as it is practicable.
 3. Principal councils must confirm in their annual Schedule that the maximum limit of senior salaries set for the council has not been exceeded.

4. Principal councils, NPAs and FRAs must include a statement of allowable expenses and the duties for which they may be claimed for care, travel and subsistence in their annual Schedule which is in accord with the Panel's determinations.
5. The Schedule must set out the arrangements for the payment of salaries, allowances and fees to all members and co-opted members of the relevant authority (IRPW Regulation 35); arrangements for making claims for care and personal assistance, travel and subsistence expenses (IRPW Regulations 24 and 36-37); arrangements for the avoidance of duplication (IRPW Regulation 38) and arrangements for re-payment of salaries, allowances and fees (IRPW Regulation 33). This schedule must also include the duties for which members and co-opted members are able to claim reimbursement towards travel, subsistence and care and personal assistance costs.
6. Principal councils must declare in the Schedule whether:
 - A statement of the basic responsibility of a councillor is in place.
 - Role descriptors of senior salary office holders are in place.
 - Records are kept of councillor attendance.
7. Principal councils, NPAs and FRAs must make arrangements for the publication of the Schedule of Member Remuneration as soon as practicable after its determination and no later than 31 July of the year to which it applies. The Schedule should be published in a manner that provides ready access for members of the public.
8. The **Schedule** must also be sent to the Panel Secretariat to be received by 31 July.
9. Any changes to the schedule during the year must be promptly publicised in the above manner and all changes notified to Panel Secretariat promptly.

Annex 4: Publication of Remuneration – the Panel’s Requirements

In accordance with Section 151 of the Wales (Local Government) Measure 2011 the Panel requires that:

1. Relevant authorities must publish a Statement of Payments made to its members for each financial year. This information must be published in a form and location that is easily accessible to members of the public no later than 30 September following the end of the previous financial year and in the same timescale also provided to the Panel. The following information must be provided:
 - a. The amount of basic salary, senior salary, civic salary and co-opted member fee paid to each named member or co-opted member of the relevant authority, including where the member had chosen to forego all or part of the salary, or fee for the municipal year in question. Where a senior salary has been paid, the title of the senior office held is to be provided.
 - b. The payments made by community and town councils to named members as:
 - Payments in respect of telephone usage, information technology, consumables etc.
 - Responsibility payments
 - Allowances made to a mayor or chair and deputy mayor or deputy chair
 - Compensation for Financial Loss
 - Costs incurred in respect of travel and subsistence
 - c. All travel and subsistence expenses and other payments received by each named member and co-opted member of the relevant authority, with each category identified separately.
 - d. The amount of any further payments received by any named member nominated to, or appointed by, another relevant authority or other public body as defined by Section 67 of the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013, namely:
 - a local health board
 - a police and crime Panel
 - a relevant authority
 - a body designated as a public body in an order made by the Welsh Ministers.
 - e. Names of members who did not receive basic or senior salary because they were suspended for all or part of the annual period to which the Schedule applies.
 - f. In respect of the publication of the contribution towards costs of care and personal assistance, relevant authorities are only required to

publish the total amount reimbursed during the year. It is a matter for each authority to determine its response to any Freedom of Information requests it receives. However, it is not intended that details of individual claims should be disclosed.

2. **Nil returns** are required to be published and provided to the Panel by 30 September.

Annex 5: Summary of new and updated determinations contained in this report

The numbers of most of the determinations contained within this report have changed from previous reports.

To assist authorities, this table sets out the determinations in this report which are entirely new or have been updated.

Summary of new and updated determinations contained in this report	
Principal Councils	
Determination 1: This Determination has been updated	The basic salary in 2021/22 for elected members of principal councils shall be £14,368 with effect from 1 April 2021.
Determination 2: The amounts payable under this Determination have been updated	Senior salary levels in 2021/22 for members of principal councils shall be as set out in Table 3 with effect from 1 April 2021.
Determination 3: This Determination has been updated	Where paid, a civic head must be paid a Band 3 salary of £23,161 and where paid a deputy civic head must be paid a Band 5 salary of £18,108 with effect from 1 April 2021.
Determination 4: This Determination has been updated	Where appointed and if remunerated, a presiding member must be paid a Band 3 senior salary of £23,161.
Determination 8: This Determination has been updated	Members in receipt of a Band 1 or Band 2 salary cannot receive any payment from a Community or Town Council of which they are a member. They remain eligible to claim travel and subsistence expenses and contribution towards costs of care and personal assistance from the Community or Town Council. Where this situation applies, it is the responsibility of the individual member to comply.
Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committees (JOSC)	
Determination 12: This is a new Determination	The salary level for a Chair of a Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee shall be £8,793.
Determination 13: This is a new Determination	The salary level for a Vice Chair of a Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee shall be £4,396.
Entitlement to Family Absence	
Determination 15: This Determination has been updated	An elected member is entitled to retain a basic salary when taking family absence under the original regulations or any amendment to the regulations irrespective of the attendance record immediately preceding the commencement of the family absence.
National Park Authorities	
Determination 21: This Determination has been updated	The basic salary for NPA ordinary members shall be £4,053 with effect from 1 April 2021.
Determination 22: This Determination has been updated	The senior salary of the Chair of a NPA shall be £12,845 with effect from 1 April 2021.

Summary of new and updated determinations contained in this report	
Determination 23: This Determination has been updated	A NPA senior salary of £7,792 must be paid to a Deputy Chair where appointed.
Determination 24: This Determination has been updated	Committee Chairs or other senior posts can be paid. This shall be paid at £7,792.
Determination 27: This Determination has been updated.	Members of a principal council in receipt of a Band 1 or Band 2 senior salary cannot receive a salary from any NPA to which they have been appointed. Where this situation applies, it is the responsibility of the individual member to comply.
Fire and Rescue Authorities	
Determination 28: This Determination has been updated	The basic salary for FRA ordinary members shall be £2,026 with effect from 1 April 2021.
Determination 29: This Determination has been updated	The senior salary of the Chair of a FRA shall be £10,818 with effect from 1 April 2021.
Determination 30: This Determination has been updated	A FRA senior salary of £5,765 must be paid to the Deputy Chair where appointed.
Determination 31: This Determination has been updated	Chairs of Committees or other senior posts can be paid. This shall be paid at £5,765.
Determination 34: This Determination has been updated	Members of a principal council in receipt of a Band 1 or Band 2 senior salary cannot receive a salary from any FRA to which they have been nominated. Where this situation applies, it is the responsibility of the individual member to comply,
Contribution towards Costs of Care and Personal Assistance	
Determination 41: This Determination has been updated.	<p>All relevant authorities must provide a payment towards necessary costs for the care of dependent children and adults (provided by informal or formal carers) and for personal assistance needs as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal (registered with Care Inspectorate Wales) care costs to be paid as evidenced. • Informal (unregistered) care costs to be paid up to a maximum rate equivalent to the Real UK Living Wage at the time the costs are incurred. <p>This must be for the additional costs incurred by members to enable them to carry out official business or approved duties. Each authority must ensure that any payments made are appropriately linked to official business or approved duty. Payment shall only be made on production of receipts from the care provider.</p>

**Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales
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Crown Buildings
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ**

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The Report and other information about the Panel and its work are available on our website at:

[Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales](#)

Annex 1: The Panel's Determinations for 2021/22

Principal Councils	
1.	Basic salary in 2021/22 for elected members of principal councils shall be £14,368 with effect from 1 April 2021.
2.	Senior salary levels in 2021/22 for members of principal councils shall be as set out in Table 3 with effect from 1 April 2021.
3.	Where paid, a civic head must be paid a Band 3 salary of £23,161 and, where paid, a deputy civic head must be paid a Band 5 salary of £18,108 with effect from 1 April 2021.
4.	Where appointed and if remunerated, a presiding member must be paid a Band 3 senior salary of £23,161.
5.	The post of deputy presiding member will not be remunerated.
6.	<p>a) An elected member must not be remunerated for more than one senior post within their authority.</p> <p>b) An elected member must not be paid a senior salary and a civic salary.</p> <p>c) All senior and civic salaries are paid inclusive of basic salary.</p> <p>d) If a council chooses to have more than one remunerated deputy leader, the difference between the senior salary for the deputy leader and other executive members should be divided by the number of deputy leaders and added to the senior salary for other executive members in order to calculate the senior salary payable to each deputy leader.</p>
7.	Members in receipt of a Band 1 or Band 2 senior salary cannot receive a salary from any NPA or FRA to which they have been appointed. They remain eligible to claim travel and subsistence expenses and contribution towards costs of care and personal assistance from the NPA or FRA.
8.	Members in receipt of a Band 1 or Band 2 salary cannot receive any payment from a Community or Town Council of which they are a member. They remain eligible to claim travel and subsistence expenses and contribution towards costs of care and personal assistance from the Community or Town Council. Where this situation applies, it is the responsibility of the individual member to comply.
9.	Each authority, through its Democratic Services Committee, must ensure that all its elected members are given as much support as is necessary to enable them to fulfil their duties effectively. All elected members should be provided with adequate telephone, email and internet facilities giving electronic access to appropriate information.

10.	Such support should be without cost to the individual member. Deductions must not be made from members' salaries by the respective authority as a contribution towards the cost of support which the authority has decided necessary for the effectiveness and or efficiency of members.
Specific or Additional Senior Salaries	
11.	Principal Councils can apply for specific or additional senior salaries that do not fall within the current Remuneration Framework.
Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committees (JOSC)	
12.	The salary level for a Chair of a Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee shall be £8,793.
13.	The salary level for a Vice Chair of a Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee shall be £4,396.
Local Government Pension Scheme	
14.	The entitlement to join the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) shall apply to all eligible elected members of principal councils.
Family Absence	
15.	An elected member is entitled to retain a basic salary when taking family absence under the original regulations or any amendment to the regulations irrespective of the attendance record immediately preceding the commencement of the family absence.
16.	When a senior salary holder is eligible for family absence, they will continue to receive the salary for the duration of the absence.
17.	It is a matter for the authority to decide whether or not to make a substitute appointment. The elected member substituting for a senior salary holder taking family absence will be eligible to be paid a senior salary, if the authority so decides.
18.	If the paid substitution results in the authority exceeding the maximum number of senior salaries which relates to it, as set out in the Panel's Annual Report, an addition to the maximum will be allowed for the duration of the substitution. However, this will not apply to the Isle of Anglesey or Merthyr Tydfil Councils if it would result in the number of senior salaries exceeding fifty percent of the Council membership. Specific approval of Welsh Ministers is required in such circumstances.
19.	When a Council agrees a paid substitution for family absence the Panel must be informed within 14 days of the date of the decision, of the details including the particular post and the duration of the substitution.
20.	The Council's schedule of remuneration must be amended to reflect the implication of the family absence.

National Park Authorities	
21.	The basic salary for NPA ordinary members shall be £4,053 with effect from 1 April 2021.
22.	The senior salary of the Chair of a NPA shall be £12,845 with effect from 1 April 2021.
23.	A NPA senior salary of £7,792 must be paid to a Deputy Chair where appointed.
24.	Committee chairs or other senior posts can be paid. This shall be paid at £7,792.
25.	Members must not receive more than one NPA senior salary.
26.	A NPA senior salary is paid inclusive of the NPA basic salary.
27.	Members of a principal council in receipt of a Band 1 or Band 2 senior salary cannot receive a salary from any NPA to which they have been appointed. Where this situation applies, it is the responsibility of the individual member to comply.
Fire and Rescue Authorities	
28.	The basic salary for FRA ordinary members shall be £2,026 with effect from 1 April 2021.
29.	The senior salary of the chair of a FRA shall be £10,818 with effect from 1 April 2021.
30.	A FRA senior salary of £5,765 must be paid to the Deputy Chair where appointed.
31.	Chairs of Committees or other senior posts can be paid. This shall be paid at £5,765.
32.	Members must not receive more than one FRA senior salary.
33.	A FRA senior salary is paid inclusive of the FRA basic salary and must reflect significant and sustained responsibility.
34.	Members of a principal council in receipt of a Band 1 or Band 2 senior salary cannot receive a salary from any FRA to which they have been nominated. Where this situation applies, it is the responsibility of the individual member to comply.
Co-opted Members	
35.	Principal councils, NPAs and FRAs must pay the fees to co-opted members (who have voting rights) as set out in Table 6.
36.	Reasonable time for pre meeting preparation is to be included in claims made by co-opted members the extent of which can be determined by the appropriate officer in advance of the meeting.

37.	Travelling time to and from the place of the meeting is to be included in the claims for payments made by co-opted members (up to the maximum of the daily rate).
38.	The appropriate officer within the authority must determine in advance whether a meeting is programmed for a full day and the fee will be paid on the basis of this determination even if the meeting finishes before four hours has elapsed.
39.	Fees must be paid for meetings and other activities including other committees and working groups (including task and finish groups), pre-meetings with officers, training and attendance at conferences or any other formal meeting to which co-opted members are requested to attend.
40.	Each authority, through its Democratic Services Committee or other appropriate committee, must ensure that all voting co-opted members are given as much support as is necessary to enable them to fulfil their duties effectively. Such support should be without cost to the individual member.
Contribution towards costs of care and personal assistance	
41.	<p>All relevant authorities must provide a payment towards necessary costs for the care of dependent children and adults (provided by informal or formal carers) and for personal assistance needs as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal (registered with Care Inspectorate Wales) care costs to be paid as evidenced. • Informal (unregistered) care costs to be paid up to a maximum rate equivalent to the Real UK Living Wage at the time the costs are incurred. <p>This must be for the additional costs incurred by members to enable them to carry out official business or approved duties. Each authority must ensure that any payments made are appropriately linked to official business or approved duty. Payment shall only be made on production of receipts from the care provider.</p>
Community and Town Councils	
42.	All Community and Town councils must make available a payment to each of their members of £150 per year as a contribution to costs and expenses.
43.	Community and Town councils in Group A must make available an annual payment of £500 each to a minimum of 1 and a maximum of 5 members in recognition of specific responsibilities. This is in addition to the £150 payment for costs and expenses.
44.	Community and Town councils in Groups B or C can make an annual payment of £500 each to up to 5 members in recognition of specific responsibilities. This is in addition to the £150 payment for costs and expenses.

45.	<p>Community and Town councils can make payments to each of their members in respect of travel costs for attending approved duties.⁹ Such payments must be the actual costs of travel by public transport or the HMRC mileage allowances as below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 45p per mile up to 10,000 miles in the year. • 25p per mile over 10,000 miles. • 5p per mile per passenger carried on authority business. • 24p per mile for private motor cycles. • 20p per mile for bicycles.
46.	<p>If a Community or Town council resolves that a particular duty requires an overnight stay, it can authorise reimbursement of subsistence expenses to its members at the maximum rates set out below on the basis of receipted claims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £28 per 24-hour period allowance for meals, including breakfast where not provided. • £200 – London overnight. • £95 – elsewhere overnight. • £30 – staying with friends and or family overnight.
47.	<p>Community and Town councils can pay financial loss compensation to each of their members, where such loss has occurred, for attending approved duties as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to £55.50 for each period not exceeding 4 hours. • Up to £110.00 for each period exceeding 4 hours but not exceeding 24 hours.
48.	<p>Community and Town councils can provide a payment to the mayor or chair of the council up to a maximum of £1,500. This is in addition to the £150 payment for costs and expenses and the £500 senior salary if these are claimed.</p>
49.	<p>Community and Town councils can provide a payment to the deputy mayor or deputy chair of the council up to a maximum of £500. This is in addition to the £150 payment for costs and expenses and the £500 senior salary if these are claimed.</p>
50.	<p>Members in receipt of a Band 1 or Band 2 senior salary from a principal council (that is Leader, Deputy Leader or Executive Member) cannot receive any payment from any community or town council, other than travel and subsistence expenses and contribution towards costs of care and personal assistance.</p>

⁹ Where a member who is on official business or an approved duty is driven by a third party (not a member or officer of that authority), the member can claim mileage at the prescribed rates plus any parking or toll fees provided the authority is satisfied that the member has incurred these costs.

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Democratic Services Committee

Date: 23RD March 2021

UPDATE ON MEMBER DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2021/22

Purpose: To update on any proposed areas for development identified to date and invite the views of DSC on any additions, deletions, or amendments to proposal.

Recommendations / key decisions required:

- Endorse the proposal for a Toolkit of learning to support the Member Development Programme.
- Receive a further presentation/demonstration in due course on navigating the digital resources made available.

Reasons:

To contribute to Member Development Plan 2021-22

Relevant scrutiny committee to be consulted NA

Exec Board Decision Required NA

Council Decision Required NA

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:- Cllr. Rob James– Member Development Champion and L.M. Stephens – Executive Board Member

Directorate: CEX

Name of Head of Service: Paul R Thomas

Report Author: Hayley Daniels

Designations: Corporate Development Advisor

Tel Nos. 01267 246186

E Mail Addresses:
HMDaniels@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
Democratic Services Committee
23rd March 2021

Consultation on Member Development Plan
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<p>This report provides an update to the Democratic Services Committee on the Member Development Plan for 2021/22 and the proposal for a toolkit of learning to support the programme. Comments are welcomed regarding any programmes added, deleted or prioritised.</p>		
<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"><tr><td style="width: 35%;">DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?</td><td>YES</td></tr></table>	DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?	YES
DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?	YES	

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report :

Signed: **P.R. Thomas** **Assistant Chief Executive**

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities NONE	Legal NONE	Finance NONE	ICT NONE	Risk Management Issues NONE	Staffing Implications NONE	Physical Assets NONE
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CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Signed: **P.R. Thomas** **Assistant Chief Executive**

(Please specify the outcomes of consultations undertaken where they arise against the following headings)

1. Scrutiny Committee: N/A

2. Local Member(s)

Individual Members consulted as part of 1-1 Personal Development Meeting with Group Leaders or Deputy Group Leaders.

3. Community / Town Council – N/A

4. Relevant Partners – N/A

5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations – N/A

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information

List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

THERE ARE NONE (Delete as applicable)

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection

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Member Development Programme 2021/22

Background

The Local Government Measure 2011 highlights the responsibility of Local Authorities to provide reasonable development opportunities to its Elected Members. Carmarthenshire County Council's Member Development Strategy sets out our approach to Member development which is regularly reviewed to such development needs are supported.

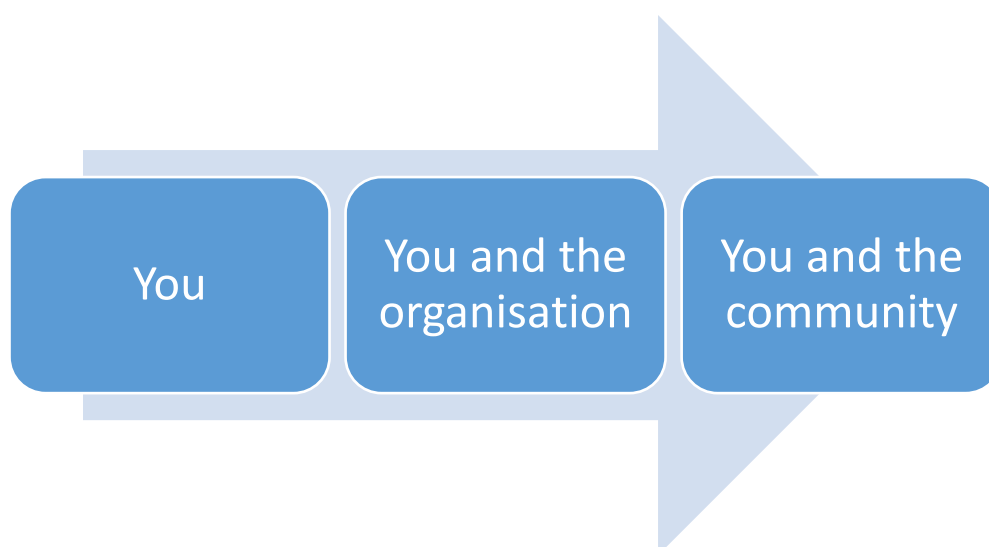
In order to support Elected Members in their role and new ways of working since Covid-19, a survey was sent to all members in August 2020 to evaluate the Council's response to Covid-19 crisis to ensure that any learning and positive changes are used to inform the approach to the re-setting of services and to prioritise learning and develop an on-line Toolkit of learning for members.

The toolkit will encompass our initial proposal on the 21st Century Councillor Model that was presented to members back in July 2019 and will continue to be a blended and inclusive approach to learning that reflects different learning styles. The toolkit will include the two distinct areas of development already discussed with members:

- **Foundational Skills**– Practical and knowledge skills (covered by most existing learning and development)
- **Relational Skills** – Connective, digital & reflective skills (to be effective as a 21st Century Councillor and covered as part of learning conversations).

The learning will sit within three themes to support members in their role.

See Table 1 - Sample Toolkit of learning – Elected Members



Further consultation with the Democratic Services Committee still required;

- To seek the views of Members on the creation of the toolkit of learning and agree the learning identified within the three themes.
- The outcomes will inform the resourcing, prioritisation and delivery of the Member Development Plan for endorsement by the Democratic Services Committee.

Recommendations

That Democratic Services Committee:

1. Endorse the proposal for a Toolkit of learning to support the Member Development Programme.
2. Receive a further presentation/demonstration in due course on the navigating the digital resources made available

See Table 1 - Sample Toolkit of learning – Elected Members

You	You and the Organisation	You and the Community
<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Personal Resilience•Managing Yourself & Your Time•Mentoring & Coaching•Digital Skills•Influencing & Negotiating Skills•Leadership Development•Listening & Communication Skills•Public Speaking	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Equality, Diversity & Inclusion<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Charing Skills•How the Council works•Strength based approaches - finding solutions•Roles & Responsibilities of Councillors•Budgetary Skills•Effective Overview & Scrutiny•Councillors & Officers working well	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Holding effective surgeries and casework•Media skills

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DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE 23 MARCH 2021

MEMBER DEVELOPMENT – PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT REVIEWS [PDR]

Purpose: To consider options for providing a member-led process for conducting personal development reviews which meets the needs of members and invites increased participation.

RECOMMENDATIONS / KEY DECISIONS REQUIRED:

To consider arrangements for a Personal Development Review (PDR) process that will be made available to all Elected Members

REASONS:

To ensure Carmarthenshire's process for conducting personal development reviews meets the needs of members and invites increased participation.

Relevant scrutiny committee to be consulted NO

Exec Board Decision Required NO (Delete as applicable)

Council Decision Required NO (Delete as applicable)

Relevant Executive Board Portfolio Holder – Cllr Rob James – Chair of Democratic Services Committee and Member Development Champion/Cllr Mair Stephens – Member Development Lead for the Executive Board.

Directorate: CEX

Name of Head of Service:

Paul Thomas

Report Author: Hayley Daniels
Corporate Development Advisor

Designations:

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE
23rd March 2021

Member Development – Personal Development Reviews [PDR]

The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 (Chapter 1 – Part 7) makes specific provision for the training and development of members of a local authority and states that

- “A local authority must make available to each member of the authority an annual review of the member's training and development needs.
- The review must include an opportunity for an interview with a person who is, in the opinion of the authority, suitably qualified to provide advice about the training and development needs of a member of a local authority.”

Elected Members have a wide range of roles and responsibilities which they are expected to undertake. The PDR process will assist Elected Members to identify any support that may be required to fulfil these roles effectively. Attaining the appropriate level of knowledge, skills and experience identified during the PDR process will enable them to fulfil their roles

The Authority has previously taken the approach that Personal Development Reviews should be undertaken by the leaders of the political groups, this will allow groups to identify those areas where there is a demand for training so that it is member-led. This will enable training to be undertaken in non-political, possibly informal groups where appropriate, bearing in mind the limited resources. The Corporate Learning and Development Advisor will be on hand to assist in any member-led assessment of training needs and to enable the Member Development Programme to be tailored in accordance with training needs.

Attached for the Committees attention are the existing templates which are made available to Group Leaders to assist in the reviews.

It is suggested that the training needs of any unaffiliated members should be ascertained by the Chair of the Democratic Services Committee.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

Template introductory letter (Appendix 1)
Self-review template [for completion by the individual member] (Appendix 2)
Summary of development needs (Appendix 3)
WLGA Development Framework for Councillors in Wales (Appendix 4)

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report :

Signed: Paul R Thomas

Assistant Chief Executive

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Signed: P.R. Thomas Assistant Chief Executive (People Management and Performance)

1. Scrutiny Committee n/a
2. Local Member(s) n/a
3. Community / Town Council n/a
4. Relevant Partners n/a
5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations n/a

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

THERE ARE NONE

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Dear Colleague

Individual 1 to 1 Personal Development Review

The LG Measure 2011 requires that every local authority member “...*must be offered the opportunity to have their training and development needs reviewed on an annual basis. [This] must include an opportunity for a pre-planned interview between the member and a suitably qualified person.*”

At a meeting of the Democratic Services Committee & Group Leaders/Deputies the decision was made to offer member-led personal development reviews to all elected members with the reviews being carried out by group leaders, their deputies or another nominated senior member from within their party.

I would, therefore, like to invite you to meet with me for a confidential discussion about your ongoing development. The purpose of this meeting is to support you in your role as an elected member and ensure that you receive any development necessary to assist you in your duties.

As part of this, you will have the opportunity to reflect on your existing skills and knowledge before identifying what development would be most useful for you in terms of your continuing professional development.

To ensure we make the best use of our time, I would kindly request that you complete the attached Personal Development Self-Reflection Template and bring this with you to the meeting.

While our discussion will remain confidential, any development opportunities which you identify will, if appropriate, be shared with the relevant officer to inform the Member Development Plan 2021/22 in order for the correct support to be identified and provided.

Our aim is to complete all Personal Development Reviews by the end of July 2021, therefore, I should be grateful if you would contact [name / nominated representative] on [phone no/email] at your earliest convenience to arrange a suitable date & time.

If you have any queries at all, please feel free to contact me on [contact details]

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Personal Development Review

Self-Reflection Template

Please complete this template and bring it along to your Personal Development Review meeting. This will help to focus the discussion so that you get the most from it. This form is confidential to you and the person who is conducting your review except for the Development Action Plan which may be shared with the officer/s responsible for member support or development.

Name:..... Date of meeting:.....

1. What are my current roles and responsibilities?

2. What specific tasks do I need to achieve this year? What do I plan to do and by when?

3. What do I need to know about and be able to do to undertake my role and deliver my plans?

4. What aspects of the role am I most confident in?

5. Where do I currently feel less confident?

6. What might prevent me from undertaking my role as effectively as I would like?

7. What learning and development have I undertaken this year?

8. What have I learned and been able to achieve as a result of this learning and development?

9. What additional learning and development would be useful?

10. What support could I offer to my colleagues?

Development Action Plan

Areas that I would like to develop	How will I achieve this
<p>Skills: <i>[E.g. chairing meetings, questioning techniques, media interviews]</i></p>	<p><i>[E.g. visits to other authorities, networking with other members, meeting with relevant officers, e-learning or workshops etc]</i></p>
<p>Knowledge: <i>[E.g. code of conduct, equalities, legislation etc]</i></p>	

Summary of Member Development Needs Identified at 1-1 PDR's

2020-2021

Please use this table to summarise any development needs identified that require referral to officers for action and/or advice. This may include requests for digital learning etc but need not include anything which the individual member is personally responsible for such as reading relevant journals, browsing the internet or shadowing colleagues.

Name	Topic	Method	Additional notes

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WLGA • CLILC



A Development Framework for Councillors in Wales

Contact

Welsh Local Government Association

The WLGA's primary purposes are to promote a better local government, its reputation and to support authorities in the development of policies and priorities which will improve public service and democracy.

It represents the 22 local authorities in Wales with the 3 fire and rescue authorities and 3 national park authorities as associate members.

Welsh Local Government Association

Local Government House
Drake Walk
Cardiff
CF10 4LG

Tel: 029 2046 8600

Fax: 029 2046 8601

www.wlga.gov.uk

Published: May 2015

Copyright: Welsh Local Government Association

WLGA Continuing Professional Development for Councillors

A Development Framework for Councillors in Wales

This framework outlines the skills and knowledge widely accepted to be required by local authority councillors in Wales. It is intended to provide guidance for councillors about their roles, and help them identify their priorities for continuing personal and professional development. It is not intended to be exhaustive or prescriptive, but to help new and existing councillors identify the aspects of their role where support or training might be helpful. The Framework can also be used as a prompt for councillors undertaking personal development reviews and by officers and members devising development programmes. It can also be locally adapted to reflect the priorities of different councils.

The Framework has been designed as part of the Wales approach to continuing professional development for councillors which has been created by councils working with the WLGA. It therefore fits with the Wales Charter for Member Support and Development. The Charter provides councils with a structure for local self-assessment and action in member development, this framework provides a suggested content for that development. The framework also fits with the WLGA model role descriptions and person specifications for members.

Using the Framework

The Framework includes a range of generic competencies required by all councillors and separate sections for specific roles on the Council. Part One (sections one to five) will be useful for all councillors. Part Two (the remaining sections) should be used selectively depending on additional specialist roles.

Part One – Relevant to All Councillors

1. Fundamentals: A range of generic skills required by all members

Requirement	Knowledge and Skills	Effective Behaviours
Understanding of the role of the Councillor	The extent and limits of a councillor's individual responsibilities and the powers and responsibilities required to undertake corporate governance. Also corporate responsibilities such as corporate parenting and safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.	Undertakes their role effectively in the council, the community and with partner agencies. Understands when it is and is not appropriate to act for the electoral division or in the interests of the area as a whole. Acts proactively to deliver outcomes Ensures that both the authority's corporate responsibilities and the member's personal role are undertaken in for example protecting children and vulnerable adults and supporting looked after children.
Understanding the role of the Local Authority	Understanding of the services delivered, both statutory and discretionary and the policies, procedures, plans and strategies which underpin them.	Is able to describe the work of the Council to the public and where these responsibilities lie with other agencies such as community and town councils, voluntary sector or the Welsh Government. Contributes to the development of council plans and strategies and takes decisions in the light of these.
Conduct	Understanding of the ethical framework governing the work of councillors, specifically the Code of Conduct. Understanding of the role of the Monitoring Officer. Appreciation of the importance of accountability, integrity and transparency for good governance.	Abides by the Code of Conduct at all times. Always declares and defines interests when appropriate. Seeks advice from the monitoring officer when appropriate. Treats others with respect in all settings. Demonstrates integrity. Values others. Listens. Stays calm in difficult situations.
Equalities and respect	Personal skills in demonstrating respect for others regardless of sex, race, religion, age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity or sexual orientation. Understanding Equalities and Diversity law relating to the work of the Council and the role of the Councillor. Understanding of the need for and what constitutes respectful behaviour towards others.	Demonstrates equalities values in personal behaviour and council decisions. Applies appropriate equalities legislation and demonstrates equalities values in personal behaviour and council decisions. Treats everyone with respect at all times when acting as a councillor whether in the Council, community, or political group.
Balancing Council and community expectations and responsibilities	Understanding of the distinct responsibilities of a councillor as a member of a corporate body and as a representative of an electoral division or community.	Takes decisions relating to the corporate body or Electoral Division ethically. Manages both community and council expectations through effective communication.

Requirement	Knowledge and Skills	Effective Behaviours
Audit, Inspection and Regulation	An understanding of the role of the Audit Inspection and Regulatory bodies and associated council processes.	Engages effectively with the audit, inspection and regulatory process within the council, using this information to constructively challenge and support the affected services.
Balancing personal commitments	An understanding of time management principals including prioritisation and delegation.	Maintains an effective work/life balance, managing the time available to concentrate on the issues with the most significant outcomes.
Information Management	Understanding and interpreting information and data. Ability to handle data in the format provided by the council. Understanding of the definition of confidentiality and how to handle confidential information - Understanding of the legal requirements of Data Protection and Freedom of Information legislation.	Receives information and data from a variety of sources and is able to store share and use it effectively and where possible electronically. Does not keep records about people without seeking their agreement. Responds promptly and appropriately to FOI requests. Does not distribute or share confidential or restricted information.
Using ICT and social media	Skills in all 'Office' applications such as word processing, presentation and spreadsheets. And communication and social media applications including email, tweeting, blogging and personal website management.	Conducts council business electronically. Communicates with the community electronically and through social media where appropriate. Maintains an effective, positive and ethical online presence.
Meeting preparation and participation	Understanding of the Standing Orders, any protocols and rules of debate. Skills in public speaking, debating and asking questions.	Prepares effectively for meetings by reading papers and analysing data. Undertakes personal research and participates in any pre meetings. Contributes to positive meeting outcomes by seeking tangible decisions or actions. Effectively contributes to meetings making points clearly and succinctly. Remains focussed on the business in hand. Understands and applies meeting 'rules'. Seeks guidance from officers and group leaders before meetings as appropriate.
Working with the media	Skills in building relationships with the media and being interviewed on TV, radio and for the press and online media.	Is a recognised source of credible information for the Media. Speaks confidently, authoritatively and appropriately in interviews. Enhances the reputation of the council when appearing on screen or in print.
Self-promotion	The ability to develop a profile in the community through local activities and effective communication and consultation.	Writes an annual report on achievements and activities. Is highly visible in the community. Maintains a high standard in both personal reputation and that of the Council.

Requirement	Knowledge and Skills	Effective Behaviours
Working with officers	Understanding the role of officers generally and the 'rules' they need to abide by including a deeper understanding of the role of senior officers such as the Chief Executive, Senior Management team, Monitoring Officer and Heads of Finance, Legal and Democratic Services. Skills in acting as a corporate employer. Understanding of the appointments process and interviewing skills.	Maintains professional relationships with officers, recognising appropriate boundaries and abiding by the Member Officer Protocol. Acts as an effective member of an appointment panel, applying sound HR and equality and diversity principles to secure the best candidate.
Health and safety	Understanding of Health and Safety legislation in the work of the Council. Understand how to assess risks and ensure personal safety and that of others.	Promotes and ensures the health and safety of everyone in the council. Ensures personal safety when working in the Council and when in groups or alone in the community.
Continuing professional and personal development	Ability to identify personal development needs and to participate in development activities.	Undertakes regular personal development reviews taking account of role descriptions and competency frameworks. Takes responsibility for developing personal skills and knowledge, attends learning and development activities seeking tangible outcomes.
Financial capability	Understanding of the way councils and services are funded. Understanding and skills in budget setting. Personal financial capability. Understanding the impact of Welfare Reform and the austerity agenda.	Engages effectively in the budget setting process. Is prepared to take hard, Evidence-based decisions. Demonstrates skills in numeracy when interpreting data and asking questions.
Interpersonal skills	Self-awareness, and skills in self-management, "good manners" Emotional Intelligence, listening, negotiation, conflict management and mediation skills.	Acts in a professional and respectful manner to all people and in all places. Is self-aware and able to develop and manage relationships both within and outside the Council. Brokers relationships and manages conflict in the community and Council and between the two.
Sustainable Development	Understanding of issues that impact on future generations such as health and wellbeing, financial security and the environment.	Takes decisions based upon the needs of future generations as well as the current population.
Safeguarding	Understanding of the legal requirements, and the responsibilities, placed on authorities and individual councillors to protect children and vulnerable adults at risk of abuse	Is vigilant and acts to make sure that children and vulnerable adults are protected from abuse, taking appropriate decisions and reporting instances appropriately

Requirement	Knowledge and Skills	Effective Behaviours
Corporate Parenting	Understanding of the role of the Councillor as a Corporate Parent	Takes appropriate responsibility for the welfare of looked after children, actively seeking appropriate information on their situation and progress.

2. Local Leadership. A range of skills required by all councillors in their role as community leaders

Requirement	Knowledge and Skills	Effective Behaviours
Working with the community	Knowledge of community groups and leaders. Understanding of community issues and concerns. Ability to seek the views of all relevant parties.	Understands the needs of the local community and secures action from the council on behalf of local people. Communicates with the community, individuals and the council to ensure engagement and understanding of all parties.
Consultation and engagement	Understands the different levels of engagement ranging from communication to co-production set out in the national principles of engagement for Wales. http://www.participationcymru.org.uk/national-principles	Demonstrates positive outcomes as a result of effective engagement. Uses a range of communication and consultation tools such as Social Media to understand the needs and views of the community.
Voluntary sector	Understands the role and responsibilities of the voluntary sector in the area.	Builds effective relationships with the voluntary sector and communicates and works with them when appropriate.
Local issues	Understands the issues of importance to people locally and throughout the council area. Knows which council plans will impact on local issues.	Works with the community and the council to find solutions to local problems. Secures funding for local initiatives.
Working with community and town councils	Understanding of the responsibilities of community councils and their forward work programmes.	Works with community councils to deliver outcomes for the community. Fosters positive relations and active communication with the Community Council and the Clerk.

3. Casework on behalf of the public

Requirement	Knowledge and Skills	Effective Behaviours
Being accessible to the public	Understanding of and ability to arrange and publicise opportunities to discuss casework with the public.	Makes themselves available through the most appropriate means to connect with the greatest number of people. Uses surgeries, street surgeries, informal settings, home and social media as appropriate. Promises only that which can be delivered.
Managing casework	Ability to use case management techniques and software and to monitor and communicate progress.	Keeps the people on whose behalf they are working informed of progress. Monitors progress of cases after they have been referred to officers or other agencies. Uses the established referral schemes within the council.

Requirement	Knowledge and Skills	Effective Behaviours
Signposting	Knowledge of sources of information and advice within and outside the council.	Makes links between members of the public and the appropriate source of help in the council or in the community.

4. Partnership and representation

Requirement	Knowledge and Skills	Effective Behaviours
Work on outside bodies	Understanding of the role of the outside body. Understanding of the role of the councillor on the outside body whether as a Council representative, locality representative, or as an individual.	Reports to and from the Council and outside body as appropriate. Represents the views of the Council, personal views, or that of the community effectively and appropriately according to the setting. Members should engage in relevant briefing and training provided by outside bodies.
Working as a Trustee on other organisations	Understanding of the role of the organisation and your duties and responsibilities as a trustee. Understanding of the potential implications of conflict of interest arising in the dual role of trustee and councillor.	Operates within the standards set in the Code of Conduct. Seeks advice from the Monitoring Officer as appropriate.
Working as a school governor	Understanding of education policy and school organisation.	Oversees the school performance. Challenges the school management as a critical friend. Takes part in governor training.
Working as a member of a Community or Town Council	Understanding of the role of the Community Council and its limits.	Liaises effectively between the Community Council and Unitary Council, acting as a link and Council representative when appropriate. Takes part in community council training.
Working as a Co-optee	Understanding of the role and limits of the role of co-optees on committees.	Shares expertise with the committee impartially.

5. Working in the Political environment

Requirement	Knowledge and Skills	Effective Behaviours
Party Policy	Awareness of values and manifestos both nationally and locally.	Effectively balances the requirements of people, party, group and council.
Liaison with National Government, Welsh Government and the National Assembly for Wales.	Understanding of the functions of the Welsh Government and means of engagement.	Liaises with local MPs and AMs. Brings local issues to the attention of the WG when appropriate.
Group membership	Rules and constituency group structure and policies.	

Part Two - relevant to councillors undertaking these specialist roles

6. Scrutiny

Requirement	Knowledge and Skills	Effective Behaviours
Understand the role and potential of scrutiny for driving improvement	<p>Understanding of the <i>Characteristics of Effective Scrutiny</i> i.e</p> <p>Better outcomes – ensuring democratic accountability succeeds in driving improvement in public services.</p> <p>Better decisions - ensuring democratic decision making is accountable, inclusive and robust.</p> <p>Better engagement- ensuring the public is meaningfully engaged in democratic debate about the current and future delivery of public services.</p> <p>For further information about these characteristics which were identified by the Centre for Public Scrutiny working with the Welsh Scrutiny Officers Network see http://www.cfps.org.uk/characteristics</p>	<p>Contributes to the scrutiny work programme.</p> <p>Acts in a non-political and non-parochial manner when reviewing policy or monitoring performance.</p> <p>Prioritises the areas of work where scrutiny can make a difference.</p> <p>Promotes the work of scrutiny within the council.</p>
Policy development	Understanding of the area of service or council function for which the committee is responsible.	Makes informed and evidence based recommendations for policy development.
Holding the Executive to account	<p>Ability to review and constructively challenge the work and decisions of the Executive.</p> <p>Understanding of the use of the power to call in Cabinet decisions.</p>	Effectively monitors and challenges the work of the Executive in the best interests of the community.
Performance monitoring	Ability to understand complex data, financial information, risk, reports from audit, inspection and regulatory bodies, and other information required for performance measurement.	Identifies and challenges poor performance based on evidence.
Meeting skills	<p>Ability to prepare thoroughly for meetings. Ability to understand and contribute to the questioning strategy.</p> <p>Ability to listen and question effectively throughout the meeting.</p>	<p>Listens actively and effectively.</p> <p>Makes appropriate use of pre-meetings to plan a questioning strategy.</p> <p>Focuses on meeting outcomes, using meeting processes as a means to an end.</p>
Engaging with the public in scrutiny	Ability to engage with appropriate individuals and organisations to contribute to the work of scrutiny, especially those traditionally excluded.	<p>Raises public awareness of the work of scrutiny and work programmes.</p> <p>Encourages the public to become involved in the policy and decision making process through scrutiny.</p>

Requirement	Knowledge and Skills	Effective Behaviours
Joint scrutiny	<p>Understanding of the role, remit, terms of reference and powers of any joint scrutiny committee and the role of the individual member on that committee.</p> <p>To understand the role, responsibilities and priorities of regional bodies, partnerships and organisations outside the council that the committee may need to scrutinise.</p>	<p>Demonstrates a commitment to working jointly with scrutiny members from other authorities, partnerships and organisations.</p>

7. Chairing

Requirement	Knowledge and Skills	Effective Behaviours
Meeting management	<p>Understanding of meeting protocols and the rules of debate.</p> <p>Ability to manage the agenda, contributions and time.</p> <p>Ability to engage with the public and press and viewers in the case of webcast meetings.</p>	<p>Chairs clearly and authoritatively, enforcing the rules and encouraging fair participation.</p> <p>Manages the agenda by introducing items, summarising debate, focussing on outcomes and limiting contributions which do not contribute to the outcomes.</p> <p>Ensures that the public feel welcome, understand the meeting purpose and how they can contribute.</p>
Committee leadership	<p>An in depth understanding of the role of the committee and its scope. Ability to liaise with relevant officers, members and agencies.</p> <p>Commitment to enabling all committee members to develop skills and participate effectively in meetings.</p>	<p>Works with the committee outside of meetings to develop its effectiveness and that of participating individuals.</p> <p>Communicates with members and officers with an interest in committee proceedings.</p> <p>Builds relationships with the relevant Heads of service/ directors to ensure that the work of the committee is relevant, well informed and provides the outcomes needed.</p>
Work programme development and management	<p>Understanding of the subjects within the scope of the committee and how these interact with council policies generally and the roles of other committees.</p> <p>Ability to develop a balanced work programme for the committee and clear terms of reference and outcomes for any sub groups.</p>	<p>Works with officers and committee members to develop the work plan taking account of the work of other committees.</p> <p>Ensures that the work programme takes account of national, regional and local plans, policies and the expressed needs of the community for services.</p> <p>Makes sure that the committee also takes account of inspections or reports from audit, inspection and regulation bodies.</p>
Resourcing	<p>Ensuring that the committee has the staffing, information and finances to function effectively.</p>	<p>Negotiates and ensures the support required by the committee.</p>

8. Serving on statutory/regulatory committees

Requirement	Knowledge and Skills	Effective Behaviours
Planning	<p>Understanding of planning and rights of way law generally.</p> <p>Understanding of how to apply the Code of Conduct to planning issues.</p> <p>Understanding of how the need to declare interests applies to planning matters.</p> <p>Understanding of the Local Development Plan.</p> <p>Understanding of the 'rules' for Development Management.</p> <p>Understanding of Sustainable Development principals and legislation including environmental, welfare and design considerations.</p>	<p>Demonstrates objectivity by taking independent decisions based on evidence and the legal responsibility placed on members acting in a semi-judicial role.</p> <p>Transparently adheres to the Code of Conduct.</p> <p>Seeks appropriate professional officer advice, personal development or briefing before taking decisions.</p>
Audit	<p>Ability to scrutinise financial performance. An understanding of Risk Management and internal and external audit arrangements.</p> <p>An understanding of the relative roles of audit and scrutiny.</p>	
Licencing	<p>An understanding of Licensing regulations and Licensing policy.</p> <p>Understanding of local policies which impact in this area such as the Community Plan and wider considerations for sustainability.</p>	
Democratic services	<p>An understanding of the legislative requirements for a Democratic Services committee.</p> <p>Understanding of the national and local requirements for member support and development.</p> <p>Ability to liaise effectively with the Head of Democratic Services and Lead Member for member support and development.</p> <p>Understanding of the need to promote diversity in the Council.</p>	
Standards	<p>Understanding of the law and constitution in relation to conduct.</p> <p>Ability to advise and secure training for members of both principal and community councils in relation to the Code of Conduct.</p>	

9. Cabinet members

Requirement	Knowledge and Skills	Effective Behaviours
Portfolio lead	A thorough knowledge of local and national policy relating to the relevant service areas. An ability to build relationships with relevant lead officers and scrutiny chairs. Ability to work collaboratively to develop a vision for the service area.	Provides political direction to officers in the portfolio area. Is accountable for communication, policy and performance in the portfolio area. Actively seeks and values the input of scrutiny to policy development and performance monitoring. Works with officers to consider issues, priorities and take decisions.
Collective responsibility	Ability to handle information and take decisions after full consultation and consideration of the issues. Ability to prioritise issues of most importance to the Authority. Ability to work with other authorities and agencies to secure services for the Council.	Takes responsibility as a cabinet member for strategic council decisions.
Taking decisions under delegated responsibilities	Understanding of the scheme of delegation. Ability to take responsibility for decisions taken under the scheme.	Takes decisions after appropriate research and consultation.

10. Council Leadership

Requirement	Knowledge and Skills	Effective Behaviours
Management of the reputation of the Council	Ability to act as an ambassador for the authority.	Effectively represents the Council at all levels ensuring that information about the Council and its services and citizens is communicated positively and with integrity.
Leadership of area/region/place	Ability to develop a vision for the area/region/locality.	Works with the Council and the public to collaboratively develop and communicate a local vision that is clear, supported by the public and understood by the Council.
Develop, communicate and lead a vision for the Council	Ability to develop a vision for the work of the Council.	Works with the Council to collaboratively deliver the local vision.
Maintain a successful relationship with the Chief Executive and Senior Management Team	Ability to communicate effectively with the Chief Executive and senior officers. Understanding of the performance appraisal process and personal skills in conducting reviews setting objectives and giving feedback.	Meets and communicates openly and regularly. Makes expectations clear and provides political leadership. Undertake performance reviews with senior officers as appropriate.
Leadership of the Council	Ability to ensure individual and collective effective governance.	Promotes and supports good governance in the Council. Manages performance.

11. Civic Leadership

Requirement	Knowledge and Skills	Effective Behaviours
Chairing Full Council	Advanced chairing skills. In depth understanding of standing orders and rules of engagement.	Effectively chairs meetings of the Full Council demonstrating meeting management and leadership skills.
Representing the Council at civic functions	Ability to manage the Council's reputation. Skills in public speaking. Skills in relationship management.	Demonstrates high level communication, interpersonal and social skills.

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DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE 23RD MARCH 2021

DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE – ANNUAL REPORT 2019-20

RECOMMENDATIONS / KEY DECISIONS REQUIRED:

To consider the annual report of the Committee for the period 15th May 2019 to 10th June 2020 and to make available to members of Council for information.

REASONS:

The report outlines the work of the Committee during the 2019-20 municipal year.

Scrutiny Committee consulted	Not applicable
Exec Board Decision Required	NO
Council Decision Required	No

Relevant portfolio holder:- N/A

Directorate	Chief Executive's	Tel Nos.
Name of Head of Service: Linda Rees Jones	Designations: Head of Administration & Law	01267 224012 LRJ 01267 224026 GM
Report Author: Gaynor Morgan	Head of Democratic Services	E Mail Addresses: gmorgan@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE
23RD MARCH 2021

DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE –
ANNUAL REPORT 2019-20

The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 requires each Principal Council to establish a Democratic Services Committee.

The attached report outlines the work of the Committee during the 2019-20 municipal year.

It should be noted that due to the impact of Covid 19 and the suspension of all democratic meetings in March 2020 it was not possible to hold the full cycle of Committee meetings for the year.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

YES – Annual Report

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report :

Signed: Linda Rees Jones, Head of Administration & Law

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

The Democratic Services Annual Report outlines how the Committee has discharged its responsibilities in terms of the democratic services function in accordance with the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011.

Legal

There are no legal implications arising from the report. The Annual Report sets out the work of the Committee over the 12 month period ending in June 2020 and confirms that it has discharged its responsibilities in terms of the democratic services function in accordance with the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011.

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Signed: Linda Rees Jones, Head of Administration & Law

1.Scrutiny Committee Not applicable

2.Local Member(s) Not applicable

3.Community / Town Council Not applicable

4.Relevant Partners Not applicable

5.Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations Not applicable

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information

List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW:

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Democratic Services Committee information on Carmarthenshire.gov website		http://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=152

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Carmarthenshire County Council Democratic Services Committee Annual Report 2019-20



Annual Report

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DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2019-20

Foreword by the Chair of the Democratic Services Committee

As the Chair of the Democratic Services Committee during 2019 –20 it is my pleasure to present the Committee's Annual report for this period.

The Committee has focussed its work on ensuring that the needs and requirements of Members are addressed and that appropriate arrangements are made to support Members in their duties. As members we must also accept our responsibility in contributing towards efficiency savings and working in a mobile and efficient way using the most appropriate digital technology. This will be particularly important as we prepare to move to virtual meetings as a result of the Covid19 pandemic and the relaxation of Welsh Government regulations. The Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Meetings) (Wales) Regulations 2020 were brought into force on the 23rd April 2020 and passed temporary emergency regulations to relax some of the rules relating to the conduct of council business, so that important decisions could still be made during social distancing. This means that Councils can now hold official meetings virtually, with members dialling in to teleconferences or participating via video conferencing and following training the first virtual meeting of the Authority took place on the 1st June 2020.

Although the meeting schedule of the Committee has been reduced due to the Covid19 pandemic, we have during the year continued to secure and monitor the provision of reasonable training and development opportunities for Councillors and considered the annual determinations of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales.

I would like to extend my thanks and appreciation to the Committee members for their invaluable contributions and their support during the past year and also to the officers who support the Committee in its work.

I wish my successor Councillor Rob James well as Chair for 2020-21 and am sure he will continue the good work of the Committee in supporting elected members in their roles.

CLlr Suzy Curry

Chair of the Democratic Services Committee 2019-20

The Committee's Remit

The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 required each County and County Borough Council to establish a Democratic Services Committee and the remit of the Committee is set out in Section 11 of this measure namely to:-

- exercise the function of the Local Authority under section 8(1)(a) (designation of Head of Democratic Services),
- review the adequacy of provision by the Authority of staff, accommodation and other resources to discharge democratic services functions, and
- make reports and recommendations to the Authority in relation to such provision.

The Council, at its meeting held on the 17th April 2013, agreed to a recommendation of the Democratic Services Committee to include the following additional responsibilities within Committee's functions/terms of reference:-

- To secure the provision of reasonable training and development opportunities for Councillors and prepare reports and recommendations to Council in relation to such provision;
- To appoint the Council's Member Development Champion;
- To be consulted on the implementation of reports issued by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales in respect of members allowances etc.
- To promote and support good governance by the Council

The Local Government (Democracy)(Wales) Act 2013 added section 11A which provides that the Democratic Services Committee may, at the request of the Authority, review any matter relevant to :

- (a) the support and advice available to members of that Authority, and
- (b) the terms and conditions of office of those members.

Membership of the Democratic Services Committee 2019-2020

The membership of the Democratic Services Committee for the period 15th May 2019 – 9th June 2020 comprised of 5 members on a politically balanced basis:-

Councillor Suzy Curry (Chair)



Councillor Tyssul Evans (Vice-Chair).



Councillor Jim Jones



Cllr Dot Jones (up to 11/09/2019)



Cllr Dai Thomas



Cllr Emlyn Schiavone (from 11/09/2019)



Democratic Services Committee Meetings held during 2019-20

30th July 2019

2nd December 2019

Attendance by the Members of the Democratic Services Committee

The attendance figures for each member of the Democratic Services Committee are set out below.

Councillor	Meetings attended
Suzy Curry	1
Tyssul Evans	2
Dot Jones*	1
Jim Jones	0
Emlyn Schiavone*	1
Dai Thomas	1

*Cllr Dot Jones - Cttee member from 15th May 2019 – 11th September 2019 / Cllr Emlyn Schiavone Committee Member from 11th September 2019

Mansel Charles (substitute)	1
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Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it was not possible to convene all the Democratic Services Committee meetings which were scheduled for the municipal year.

Key issues considered during 2019-20

During the year the Democratic Services Committee discussed the following reports, and a brief synopsis is included for each topic:-

Member Development

The Committee considered and endorsed a new Member Development and Engagement programme based on a 21st Century Councillor Model which established a new approach to the formulation and delivery of Member Development.

The proposal offered a new approach to member development based on research with local government and consultation with Councillors. It aimed to maximise engagement for establishing learning and development requirements relevant for the 21st Century public service. The new programme will help to develop emerging roles and offers a model through which Councillor careers and development can be explored.

Carmarthenshire County Council's Scrutiny Function - Annual Report 2018-19

The Committee received the Council's Scrutiny Committee Function Annual report for 2018-19.

The report provided an outline of the work of the 5 Scrutiny Committees during the year and the discussions held at the Chairs and Vice-Chairs Forum.

The Committee was advised that some of the main areas which had / were being addressed included

- the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee role in scrutinising the Swansea Bay City Deal Pentre Awel project;
- the Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee Task and Finish Group review on Loneliness;
- the Community Scrutiny Committee continued to monitor the Local Development Plan (LDP) proposals and policies for the future use of all local land between 2018-2033;
- the Environmental & Public Protection Scrutiny Committee have analysed how the maintenance of hedges and verges throughout Carmarthenshire were managed;
- the Education & Children Scrutiny Committee's continued to review early years provision and had undertaken a pilot exercise for 6 months to prioritise outcome focused scrutiny using a new gateway prioritisation process.

Democratic Services Function Annual Review

The Committee considered the Democratic Services Function Annual Review which provided an outline on the adequacy of provision by the Authority of staff, accommodation and other resources to discharge democratic services functions.

Independent Remuneration Panel (IRPW) for Wales Annual Report - February 2020

The Committee considered the draft version of the IRPW Annual Report (February 2020) which detailed the Panel's determinations and recommendations in respect of remuneration and member support.

The Committee also noted that the Panel had removed the options for publication of reimbursement of costs of care and decided that relevant Authorities should only publish the total amount reimbursed during the year.

Councillors' Expenses – Self Service

The Committee received an update on the transition to self-service of Councillor expenses, the training provided to members and the effective date of operation namely 31st March, 2020.

Forward Work Programme

The Committee agreed its Forward Work Programme for the forthcoming 12 month period.

General Information

The Democratic Services Committee meetings are public meetings and with the exception of confidential items, all business is held in public. All of the public papers are published online at <http://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeeld=152>

The Council is keen to see members of the public attend Democratic Services Committee meetings and all other Council meetings, including Council, Executive Board, Scrutiny and Regulatory meetings.

Further information can be provided by contacting Democratic Services:

DemocraticServices@carmarthenshire.gov.uk or on 01267 224028.

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DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE 23rd March 2021

DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

Purpose: To ensure the Democratic Services Committee Agenda Items are appropriately planned

Recommendations / key decisions required:

To consider and identify a forward work programme for the Committee for 2021/22

Reasons:

Annual Forward Work Programme to discuss with Members the expected Agenda Items for the 2021/22 Democratic Committee Cycle

Relevant scrutiny committee to be consulted: Not Applicable

Exec Board Decision **NO**

Council Decision **NO**

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:- N/A – Cllr Rob James Chair of DSC

Directorate: Chief Executive's Name of Head of Service: Linda Rees Jones Report Author: Gaynor Morgan	Designations: Head of Administration and Law Head of Democratic Services	Tel No.01267224010 E Mail Address: LRJones@cararthenshire.gov.uk Tel No. 01267 224026 E Mail Address: GMorgan@cararthnenshire.gov.uk
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE 23rd March 2021

Democratic Services Committee Forward Work Programme

The purpose of this report is to inform the development of the Democratic Services Committee forward work programme for the period 2021/22. The development of a programme of work for the Committee will ensure that all appropriate Committees of the Authority have published up to date programmes which are owned by the Committee members.

A suggested work programme is attached for the Committee's consideration and comment.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED ?

YES

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report :

Signed: Linda Rees Jones
Gaynor Morgan

Head of Administration and Law
Head of Democratic Services

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities NONE	Legal NONE	Finance NONE	ICT NONE	Risk Management Issues NONE	Staffing Implications NONE	Physical Assets NONE
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CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Linda Rees Jones
Gaynor Morgan

Head of Administration and Law
Head of Democratic Services

1. **Scrutiny Committee** : Not Applicable
2. **Local Member(s)** : Not Applicable
3. **Community / Town Council** : Not Applicable
4. **Relevant Partners** : Not Applicable
5. **Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations** : Not Applicable

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information

List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Local Government Wales Measure		http://www.legislation.gov.uk/mwa/2011/4/contents/enacted
WAO Corporate Assessment		https://www.wao.gov.uk/publication/carmarthenshire-county-council-corporate-assessment-report-2015

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FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE 2021/22

SUBJECT AREA AND BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF NATURE OF REPORT	LEAD DEPARTMENT	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	DATE TO DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE
ANNUAL AND SUPPLEMENTARY REPORTS OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES To consider the implementation of reports issued by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales in respect of members allowances etc	Chief Executive	Head of Democratic Services	MARCH 2021
MEMBER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME 2021/22 To develop a Member Development Programme for 2021/22 and identify additional training and development topics as part of the 21 st Century Councillor programme.	Chief Executive	Organisational Development Manager/ Corporate Learning & Development Advisor	MARCH 2021
PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT REVIEWS – DISCUSSIONS WITH GROUP LEADERS To agree arrangements for discussions with Group Leaders on the annual development requirements for Members	Chief Executive	Chief Executive Corporate Learning & Development Advisor	MARCH 2021
PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT REVIEWS – UPDATE ON DISCUSSIONS WITH GROUP LEADERS To receive an update on discussion between Corporate Learning & Development and Group Leaders regarding annual development requirements for Members	Chief Executive	Chief Executive Corporate Learning & Development Advisor	JUNE 2021

SUBJECT AREA AND BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF NATURE OF REPORT	LEAD DEPARTMENT	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	DATE TO DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE
NEW WAYS OF WORKING – DEMOCRATIC PROCESS To receive the findings of the proposed Task and Finish Group and make recommendations to Council (subject to approval to set up a T&F Group at the DSC meeting 23/03/2021)	Chief Executive	NWoW Project Manager & Head of Democratic Services	JUNE 2021
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE 2020/21 To consider a report outlining the work the work of the Committee during the 2020/21 municipal year.	Chief Executive	Head of Democratic Services	SEPTEMBER 2021
CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S SCRUTINY FUNCTION ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21 To consider an overview of the Council's Scrutiny Function and the respective Scrutiny Committees' work during the 2019/20 municipal year.	Chief Executive	Head of Democratic Services	SEPTEMBER 2021
RESOURCES TO DISCHARGE DEMOCRATIC SERVICES FUNCTIONS To receive the report of the Head of Democratic Services on the adequacy of provision by the authority of staff, accommodation and other resources to discharge democratic services functions	Chief Executive	Head of Democratic Services	SEPTEMBER 2021
INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT To consider and comment on the draft report.	Chief Executive	Head of Democratic Services	NOVEMBER 2021
MEMBER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME 21/22 To receive an update on the Member Development Programme for 2021/22 and identify additional training and development topics	Chief Executive	Organisational Development Manager/ Corporate Learning & Development Advisor	NOVEMBER 2021

UPDATE ON THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND ELECTIONS (WALES) ACT 2021	Chief Executive	Head of Administration and Law/Head of Democratic Services	AS REQUIRED
MATTERS REFERRED FROM CRWG	Chief Executive's	Head of Democratic Services	AS REQUIRED

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DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE **30th November, 2020**

PRESENT: Councillor Rob James [Chair]

Councillors:

W.T. Evans [Vice Chair], E.M.J.G. Schiavone and D. Thomas

The following Officers were in attendance:

G. Morgan, Head of Democratic Services
Linda Rees Jones, Head of Administration & Law
H. Daniels, Corporate Learning and Development Advisor
M. Evans Thomas, Principal Democratic Services Officer
R. Lloyd, Democratic Services Officer
K. Thomas, Democratic Services Officer
S. Rees, Simultaneous Translator
J. Corner, Technical Officer

Virtual Meeting (webcast) – 2pm-2.30pm

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

There were no apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTERESTS

There were no declarations of personal interest.

3. TO APPROVE AND SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 2ND DECEMBER, 2019

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd December, 2019 be signed as a correct record.

4. INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT – FEBRUARY 2021

The Head of Democratic Services presented the draft annual report for February, 2021. The Committee was reminded the Independent Remuneration for Wales (IRPW) determines the rates of payment which are made to elected and co-opted

Members of Welsh local authorities for the following municipal year and has powers to make recommendations on proposed variations to the remuneration of Chief Executives and Chief Officers of Principal Councils in Wales.

The Head of Democratic Services advised that for 2020/21 the IRPW draft determinations proposed -

- an increase in Basic Salaries of £150, bringing the basic salary for Councillors up to £14,368 (No additional increase will be paid to Senior and Civic Salary holders, they will only receive the basic salary element increase)
- the Panel has made a significant change to the Reimbursement of Costs of Care determination. It sees the removal of the £403 monthly cap and allows a Councillor and/or Co-opted Members to seek their full costs of care to be reimbursed fully for formal carers and up to a maximum rate equivalent to the real Living Wage for informal carers. This determination will place an additional financial burden on the Council; however, given the historic numbers of claimants, it is envisaged that this will be managed within the existing democratic budget.

Concern was expressed about the payment of tax paid on this allowance. The Head of Democratic Services advised that she would seek clarity from payroll.

The salary determined by the IRPW is required to be paid by each Principal Authority in Wales from 1st April, 2021 and to each of its elected members unless any individual member opts personally and in writing to receive a lower amount.

The IRPW draft determinations for 2021/22 will result in an additional budget requirement of £11,100. This will be validated when setting the budget for the forthcoming year. It was noted that there was an error in Annex 5 to the IRPW report in terms of the basic salary level and this would be drawn to the Panel's attention as part of the Committee's response to the draft report.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

4.1 that the report be received.

4.2 that the Chair of the Committee submit a response to the IRPW on behalf of the Committee.

5. WELSH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION DOCUMENT CHANGES TO ADOPTION ABSENCE FOR LOCAL AUTHORITY MEMBERS

The Family Absence for Members of Local Authorities (Wales) Regulations 2013 (the regulations) govern adopter's absence (the form of leave taken by an individual adopting a child). The Welsh Government proposes amending the 2013 Regulations so as to extend the period of adopter's absence for members of councils from 2 weeks to 26 weeks and, as far as practicable, to align procedures relating to adopter's absence.

The Committee considered the consultation document on changes to adoption absence for Local Authority to propose changes to adoption absence for local authority members from 2 to 26 weeks and expressed support for the proposals. It was noted that the report had been circulated to all members of the Council in order for them to respond directly to the consultation.

The Head of Democratic Services advised that she would produce a draft response for the committee to consider.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Head of Democratic Services respond on behalf of the Committee.

6. DEMOCRATIC SERVICES FUNCTION

The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 requires the Council to designate one of its officers to the statutory post of Head of Democratic Services and provide that officer with sufficient resources to discharge the associated statutory functions.

The Committee considered a report detailing the staff, accommodation and other resources made available to the Head of Democratic Services in order to discharge those functions.

The Committee was asked to determine whether the services provided were adequate to deliver the democratic process for the forthcoming year.

In response to a question, the Head of Democratic Services stated that it has been a challenging year and members and officers have adapted well to the encounters faced and the new ways of working; which included getting used to new video conferencing software and working virtually and highlighted the fantastic work done. The Head of Democratic Services advised that although the new working arrangements had been challenging, the team were adapting well in the circumstances. Arrangements were now being put in place to transition from Microsoft Teams to Zoom for all meetings rather than a mix of both, as this provided a better simultaneous translation solution.

The Corporate Learning and Development Advisor contributed by stating that on-line training has been provided and continued to be provided to members on the use of zoom which is available to them on a more than 1 time basis thus allowing

them to build confidence with digital skills and that a survey was issued a few months prior as part of TIC to get responses/feedback from users; more information will be shared at the next meeting.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the report be received.