

DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE

14TH MARCH 2017

INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES (IRPW) ANNUAL REPORT (FEBRUARY, 2017)

RECOMMENDATIONS / KEY DECISIONS REQUIRED:

The Democratic Services Committee is asked to consider the IRPW Annual Report February 2017 and

1. note that the IRPW has determined that basic salary in 2017/18 for elected members of principal local authorities shall increase to £13,400.
2. consider whether to maintain existing arrangements in 2017/18 in respect of :-
 - level of senior salary paid to Executive Members (currently Band 1)
 - the level of senior salary paid to Committee Chairs for 2016/17 (currently Level 1)
 - the salary paid to the Chair and Vice-Chair of Council (currently level 2)
 - rates of reimbursement for subsistence costs and the current practice of all overnight accommodation for members being arranged through the Democratic Services Unit be continued;
 - the current practice of noting arrangements for Joint Overview Scrutiny Committees with other Authorities, and including these Committees within the Council's scheme in the event the Council decides to establish Joint Committees during the 2017/18 municipal year and to pay a salary;
 - payment of Co-opted Members' Fees being capped at 10 full day (of 20 half day) meetings;
3. determine publication arrangements for reimbursement of costs of care, specifically either to
 - a) publish details of the amounts reimbursed to named members or
 - b) the total amount reimbursed by the authority during the year but not attributed to any member.
4. accept the remaining IRPW recommendations and determinations for 2017 and incorporate them within the Council's existing Councillors' and Co-opted Members' Allowances Scheme for 2017/18./

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.

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

Executive Board Member Portfolio Holder(s): Councillors Emlyn Dole (Leader) & David Jenkins (Resources)
Councillor Terry Davies Chair of Democratic Services Committee.

Directorate	Chief Executive's	Tel Nos.
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE
14TH MARCH 2017

**INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION IRPW FOR WALES (IRPW) ANNUAL
REPORT (FEBRUARY, 2017)**

The IRPW published its Annual Report in February, 2017 and the Committee is required to consider its determinations and recommendations and make recommendations to Council for inclusion within the Councillors' and Co-opted Members' Salaries and Allowances Scheme for 2017/18. The report contains 51 determinations with the majority of determinations being unchanged from the 2016 report.

In setting the level of salaries and allowances for 2017/18 the IRPW has decided that there will be a modest increase of approximately 0.75% in the basic annual salary for elected members. No increase is proposed for senior salaries but these post holders will receive the uplift in the basic salary element.

The Panel has also introduced arrangements to recognise the implications of long term sickness of senior salary holders.

The Panel is mindful that there has been limited take up across all of the organisations of the Care Allowances, and has decided to allow optional approaches to publication of costs of care. The Panel also decided to use the term 'reimbursement of costs of care' to replace care allowance.

The attached report seeks the Committee's views on payments to Executive Members, Chairs of Committees, Civic Heads and Deputies, Subsistence and Accommodation Allowances, Remuneration of Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chairs, and payment of Co-opted Members' Fees for the 2017/18 Municipal Year, together with its view on publication of reimbursement of costs of care.

The recommendations of the Democratic Services Committee will be considered by the Council at its meeting Annual Meeting held on the 24th May 2017.

A full copy of the IRPW's Annual Report (February, 2017) can be viewed on the IRPW's website :

<http://gov.wales/docs/dsjlg/publications/localgov/170223-annual-report-en.pdf>

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

YES
IRPW Report February 2017
Appendix 1 – IRWP Determinations list.

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	YES	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

The existing Members' Allowances Scheme which is contained within the Council's Constitution will need to be amended to reflect any changes agreed by the Council to the current level of allowances.

Finance

Any increases within Basic, Senior Salaries, Civic Salaries or Co-opted Members' fees and allowances to be paid would need to be reflected within the budget for 2017/18.

Legal

The Council's Constitution requires the Council to adopt a Scheme for Members Allowances, the Scheme must meet the requirements imposed by the Independent Remuneration IRPW for Wales.

Part 8 (sections 141 to 160) and schedules 2 and 3 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 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.

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
Independent Remuneration IRPW for Wales - Annual Report (February 2017)	AD030-001	Democratic Services Unit, Chief Executives Department, County Hall, Carmarthen The Independent Remuneration IRPW for Wales website: http://gov.wales/docs/dsjlg/publications/localgov/170223-annual-report-en.pdf