

DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE

9TH MARCH 2018

INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES (IRPW) ANNUAL REPORT (FEBRUARY, 2018)

RECOMMENDATIONS / KEY DECISIONS REQUIRED:

The Democratic Services Committee is asked to

1. note that the IRPW has determined to increase the basic salary in 2018/19 for elected members of principal local authorities to £13,600.
2. Note that the IRPW has removed the two tier arrangement for executive member and committee chair salaries.
3. consider whether to maintain existing arrangements in 2018/19 in respect of :-
 - 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
 - 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 2018/19 municipal year and to pay a salary;
 - payment of Co-opted Members' Fees being capped at 10 full day (of 20 half day) meetings;
4. determine publication arrangements for reimbursement of costs of care, specifically either to
 - a) publish details of the amounts reimbursed to named members, as at present, or
 - b) the total amount reimbursed by the authority during the year but not attributed to any member.
5. accept the remaining IRPW recommendations and determinations for 2018 and incorporate them within the Council's existing Councillors' and Co-opted Members' Allowances Scheme for 2018/19.

6. Note the CRWG had accepted the recommendation of the Committee that attendance by the Chair of Council, Leader and Deputy Leader of the Opposition and the relevant Scrutiny Chair at meetings of the Executive Board be included as an approved duty in the Councillors and Co-opted Members' Salaries and Allowances Scheme 2018/19 onwards, and a recommendation in this regard will be made to Council.

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) Mair Stephens (Business Manager) & David Jenkins (Resources)

<p>Directorate</p> <p>Name of Head of Service: Linda Rees Jones</p> <p>Report Author: Gaynor Morgan</p>	<p>Chief Executive's</p> <p>Designations: Head of Administration & Law</p> <p>Head of Democratic Services</p>	<p>Tel Nos. 01267 224012 LRJ 01267 224026 GM</p> <p>E Mail Addresses: Lrjones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk gmorgan@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</p>
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE
9TH MARCH 2018

**INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES (IRPW) ANNUAL
REPORT (FEBRUARY, 2018)**

The IRPW published its Annual Report in February, 2018 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 2018/19

In setting the level of salaries and allowances for 2018/19 the IRPW has decided

- to increase the basic annual salary to £13,600 (an increase of 1.49%) There is no increase in senior salaries but post holders will receive the uplift in the basic salary paid to all councillors.
- To remove the two tier arrangement for executive members and for committee chairs.

The attached report seeks the Committee's views on payments 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 2018/19 Municipal Year.

The recommendations of the Democratic Services Committee will be considered by the Council at its meeting held on the 9th May 2018

A full copy of the IRPW's Annual Report (February, 2018) can be viewed on the IRPW's website :

<http://gov.wales/docs/dsjlg/publications/localgov/180226-annual-report-2018-en.pdf>

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, 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 2018/19.

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 2018)	AD030-001	Democratic Services Unit, Chief Executives Department, County Hall, Carmarthen The Independent Remuneration IRPW for Wales website: Cymraeg:- http://gov.wales/docs/dsjlg/publications/localgov/180226-annual-report-2018-cy.pdf English:- http://gov.wales/docs/dsjlg/publications/localgov/180226-annual-report-2018-en.pdf
Councillors' and Co-opted Members' Salaries and Allowances Scheme for 2017-18		http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/3228/part-61.pdf http://www.sirgar.llyw.cymru/media/3259/rhan-61.pdf CYMRAEG