

COUNTY COUNCIL

10TH APRIL 2019

INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES (IRPW) ANNUAL REPORT (FEBRUARY, 2019)

DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

- That the rates of reimbursement for subsistence costs for members on official duty for 2019/20 be retained at existing levels and the current practice of all overnight accommodation for members being arranged through the Democratic Services Unit be continued
- That the payment of Co-opted Members' Fees for 2019/20 be capped at 10 full day (of 20 half day) meetings;
- That option 2 in relation to the Re-imburement of Costs of Care be adopted, and the total amount reimbursed by the authority during the year be not attributable to any member
- That Council accept the IRPW recommendations and determinations for 2019 and they be incorporated within the Council's existing Councillors and Co-opted Members Allowances Scheme for 2019/20 based on a new IRPW pro-forma

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) and David Jenkins (Resources)

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
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

COUNTY COUNCIL

10TH APRIL 2019

INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES (IRPW) ANNUAL REPORT (FEBRUARY, 2019)

The IRPW published its Annual Report in February, 2019 and the Committee is required to consider its determinations and make recommendations to Council for inclusion within the Councillors' and Co-opted Members' Salaries and Allowances Scheme for 2019/20.

In setting the level of salaries and allowances for 2019/20 the IRPW has:-

- Increased basic salary in 2019/20 for elected members of principal local authorities to £13,868 (£268 / 1.97%);
- increased Band 1 and Band 2 senior salaries payable to the Leader, the Deputy Leader and Executive Members by £800 inclusive of the £268 increase to the basic salary received by all members
- Determined no changes to Band 3, 4 and 5 Senior Salaries (apart from the increase in basic salary of 1.97%)
- removed the option for Civic Salaries based on level of responsibility and has determined that payment for a civic head and deputy civic head should now be made at Band 3 £22,568 for a civic head and at the Band 5 salary of £17,568 for a deputy civic head.
- deleted the payment framework for Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committees, if in future a JOISC is formed by specific councils an application can be made to remunerate under parts 3.22 and 3.23 of the report.

The attached report sought the Democratic Services Committee's views on whether the existing arrangements for Subsistence and Accommodation Allowances, payment of Co-opted Members' Fees for the 2019/20 Municipal Year and publication arrangements for reimbursement of Costs of Care be maintained.

A full copy of the IRPW's Annual Report (February, 2019) can be viewed on the IRPW's website :

<https://beta.gov.wales/independent-remuneration-panel-wales-annual-report-2019-2020>

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

YES plus -
Appendix 1 - IRPW Summary of New and Updated Determinations for 2019/20

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 2019/20.

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 2019)	AD030-001	The Independent Remuneration IRPW for Wales website: Cymraeg:- https://beta.llyw.cymru/sites/default/files/publications/2019-02/pacga-adroddiad-blynyddol-2019.pdf English:- https://beta.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-02/irp-annual-report-2019.pdf