

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