

DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE
27TH NOVEMBER 2015

**INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES DRAFT ANNUAL
REPORT - FEBRUARY 2016**

Recommendations / key decisions required:

To consider and comment on the determinations made by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales in their draft Annual Report for the 2016/17 Municipal Year.

To authorise the Chair of the Committee to submit a response to the IRPW on behalf of the Committee.

Reasons:

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

Scrutiny committee consulted	Not Applicable
Exec Board Decision Required	NO – not at this stage.
Council Decision Required	NO - not at this stage.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:N/A - Councillor Terry Davies, Chair of the Democratic Services Committee

Directorate		
Name of Head of Service:	Designations:	Tel Nos. 01267 224010
Linda Rees Jones	Head of Administration & Law	E Mail Addresses:
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Gaynor Morgan	Head of Democratic Services	

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE 27TH NOVEMBER 2015

INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT - FEBRUARY 2016

Each year, 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. The IRPW is required to send the draft annual report to County Councils, which this year it did on 5th October, requiring comments by no later than 30th November 2015.

The IRPW is required to take into account the representations which it receives on the draft before issuing its final version of the report in February.

For 2016/17, whilst the basic salary remains at £13,300, the IRPW has made a number of new determinations, most notably there are some significant changes to some senior salaries:

- **Reduction in Deputy Leader Salary** – Reductions as follows: Group A - £200, **Group B £150** and Group C £100
- **Cap on the number of Executive Members who can receive full-salary** – A maximum of 4 Executive Members (or 5 if there is no Deputy Leader) continue to receive the current senior salary, other Executive Members will however receive a 10% reduction in salary. It will be for individual authorities to determine which Executive Members receive which salary:

	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)
Band 2			
Executive members (up to a maximum of 4 or 5 if no Deputy leader)	£32,000	£29,000	£26,000
Other Executive members (to statutory maximum)	£28,800	£26,100	£23,400

- **Introduction of 2 levels of Committee Chairs' remuneration** – Level 1 £22,000 (which is the current level) and a reduced Level 2 of £20,000. It is for individual authorities to determine which level and if any remuneration is appropriate for chairs of various committees.
- **Reduction in Opposition Leader salary** – from £22,000 to £20,000, which is in line with the lower level of salary available to Committee Chairs.
- **Concern 'that there is variation and consistency of support provided to members'**.

It should be noted that, according to the IRP Report, ***'This year, for the first time, The Panel was given a 'remit' letter by its sponsor Minister in which the Minister drew the Panel's attention to the desire of the Welsh Government to reduce the cost of politics to the public purse and pointed to a number of aspects of the current remuneration framework for consideration.'***

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED ?	YES
	<p>IRPW DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT - FEBRUARY 2016</p> <p>http://gov.wales/docs/dsjlg/publications/151005-irp-draft-report-en.pdf</p>

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: Gaynor Morgan Head of Democratic Services

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

1. Finance

The Budget provision required for payment of Members allowances in 2016/17 is likely to be similar to that in 2015/16.

CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: Gaynor Morgan Head of Democratic Services

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

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
IRPW Draft Report		http://gov.wales/docs/dsjlg/publications/151005-irp-draft-report-en.pdf