

Agenda



Democratic Services Committee

Date: Thursday, 8 November 2018

Time: 10.00 am

Venue: Committee Room 1 - Civic Centre

To: Councillors C Ferris (Chair), C Evans, M Evans, Y Forsey, I Hayat, R Hayat, L Lacey, K Thomas and T Watkins

Item	Wards Affected
1	<u>Agenda yn Gymraeg / Agenda in Welsh</u>
2	<u>Apologies</u>
3	<u>Declarations of Interest</u>
4	<u>Minutes of last meeting</u> (Pages 3 - 6)
5	<u>Independent Remuneration Panel Wales: Draft Annual Report</u> (Pages 7 - 96)
6	<u>Minor Property Transactions or Council Property Assets</u> (Pages 97 - 102)
7	<u>Support for Councillors in their ward work - presentation</u>
8	<u>Date of next Meeting</u>

Contact: Eleanor Mulligan

Tel: 01633 656656

E-mail: democratic.services@newport.gov.uk

Date of Issue: Thursday, 1 November 2018

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Minutes



Democratic Services Committee

Date: 26 July 2018

Time: 5.00 pm

Present: Councillors C Ferris (Chair), M Evans, Y Forsey, R Hayat, L Lacey, K Thomas and T Watkins

Leigh Jones (Governance Officer)

In Attendance:

Apologies: Councillors C Evans and I Hayat

1 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

2 **Minutes from May**

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 May 2018 were submitted.

With regards to item 7 (Mayoralty Protocol) there was some discussion over the wording for the revised protocol, which would be presented to Council in September. It was agreed that "divulge reasons" should be changed to "provide reasons".

It was also requested that the minutes record that the reason does not need to be released to the public. And that a reason is only needed if the deferral is longer than 12 months.

Agreed:

The minutes were confirmed as a true record subject to the revisions above.

3 **Boundary Commission Review of Communities - Verbal Update**

At its meeting in May, the Committee agreed to add this topic to its work programme, and requested a scoping report to start the review.

The Head of Law and Regulation informed the Committee that in the last week The Boundary Commission had advised the Council not to proceed with the above review, as any changes would not have time to be actioned before the Boundary Commission's review commenced (expected to be in the next year).

It was confirmed that the Committee would be consulted as part of that process and have the opportunity to make any comments on any proposals. The review would be conducted by the Boundary Commission.

Agreed:

Remove item from the Work Programme for 2018-19.

4 **Support for Councillors in their Ward Work**

The Democracy and Communications Manager presented the Report to the Committee.

Background

This Committee had agreed to review “Support for Councillors in their wasd work” as part of its work programme for 2018-19.

The last in-depth research on this area was actually undertaken in 2011, when the old Neighbourhood Committee system was under review, and the Local Service Board was looking at options for partnership engagement. The final report of this review was attached at **Appendix 1**. It was this review which let to the current system of ward meeting support.

While that had been many developments since this review, particularly in technology and the ways people prefer to communicate, many of the themes and issues facing ward-level engagement were still current.

The Democracy and Communications Manager referred to Page 12 that sets out a draft plan for the review for Members to consider and confirm, case management systems – The Democracy and Communications Manager confirmed that she would look into options that may be available.

Members also asked if it was possible to look into tapping into the WIFI on busses to communicate with residents.

It was confirmed that the Democracy and Communications teams were looking at making sure members had equipment that would support their roles e.g. when at ward meeting and having access to WI-FI to be able to answer questions straight away.

Members commented that a toolkit would be useful in terms of what council departments deal with what as there are so many different departments and that maybe a pack or website detailing this would be useful.

Discussions then ensued on engagement and communication with residents.

Head of Law and Regulation commented that the agenda item is to discuss help for Councillors not engagement which will be covered in the Communication Policy; they do overlap but are two distinctive issues.

Discussion then took place around ward meetings, and surgeries and whether certain meetings are political and how a toolkit could help Councillors.

Members suggested having a regular update from departments such as Streetscene, to keep Councillors up to date on what is happening within their departments that would affect residents.

Agreed:

T proceed with the review as outlined in the Report.

5 **Date of next meeting**

Thursday November 8th at 10am

The meeting terminated at 5.49 pm

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Report

Democratic Services Committee

Part 1

Date: 8 November 2018

Item: 05

Subject Independent Remuneration Panel Draft Report

Purpose To present the draft IRPW Annual Report, and discuss the response from Newport City Council as part of the consultation process.

Author Democratic Services and Communications Manager

Ward No Wards / All members affected

Summary The Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (IRPW) is the body tasked with setting the remuneration levels for Councils in Wales. Each year, they publish a Draft Annual Report which is circulated for comment

In accordance with the requirements of Section 147 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 (“the Measure”), the Panel’s draft Annual Report, including proposals which would have effect for the municipal year 2019-2020, has now been published on its website.

Consultation ends on 27 November 2018. The final IRPW report will be published in February 2018.

A summary of the proposed changes, and some suggested responses, are set out below.

The full IRPW report is also attached.

Proposal To consider the draft IRPW Annual Report, and agree the response from Newport City Council as part of the consultation process.

Action by Democratic Services and Communications Manager

Timetable In line with the consultation deadline

Background

The Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (IRPW) is the body tasked with setting the remuneration levels for Councils in Wales. Each year, they publish a Draft Annual Report which is circulated for comment.

In accordance with the requirements of Section 147 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 (“the Measure”), the Panel’s draft Annual Report, including proposals which would have effect for the municipal year 2019-2020 has now been published on its website.

Consultation ends on 27 November 2018. The final IRPW report will be published in February 2019.

A summary of the proposed changes, and some suggested responses, are set out below.

The full IRPW report is also attached.

Summary of Proposed Changes

In summary the Remuneration Panel proposes the following changes:

- **Basic Salaries** – an increase of 1.97%, to a basic annual salary of £13,868.
- **Executive Member Salaries** – an increase of £800 (inclusive of the £268 increase in the basic salary)
- **Civic Head / Deputy Civic Head Salaries** - an increase to Band 3 (£22568) for the Civic Head and Band 5 (£17568) for the Deputy Civic Head.

The report deals a set of potential determinations as follows. The column headed “Comments for discussion” is included to aid the Committees consideration of the proposals only.

Number	Proposed determination	Comments for discussion
Determination 1	Basic Salary in 2019/20 for elected members of principal councils shall be £13,868	This is a rise of £268. The Committee has normally not commented on amounts allocated with the view this is a matter for the Panel. However Committee members may wish to comment on the principle of the proposed increase or members could determine to make no comment.
Determination 2	The Panel has determined that senior salary levels in 2019/20 for members of principal councils shall be as set out in the table immediately below	This includes a rise of £800 for executive members. The Committee has normally not commented on amounts allocated with the view this is a matter for the Panel. However Committee members may wish to comment on the principle of the proposed increase or members could determine to make no comment.

In summary the changes are as follows for Newport:

	2018-19	2019-20	Comments
Basic Salary	£13,600	£13,868	Increase by £268 per annum or 1.97%
No of eligible Senior salaries	18	18	No change

Leader	£48,300	£49,100	Increase by £800
Deputy Leader	£33,800	£34,600	Increase by £800
Cabinet members	£29,300	£30,100	Increase by £800
Committee Chairs	£22,300	£22,568	No change for NCC other than the increase in basic salary.
Leader of the Opposition	£22,300	£22,568	No change other than the increase in basic salary
Leader of other political groups	£17,300	£17,568	No change other than the increase in basic salary

Determination 3	The Panel has determined that (where paid) a civic head must be paid a Band 3 salary of £22,568 and (where paid) a deputy civic head must be paid a Band 5 salary of £17,568	Previously all Councils had discretion on whether and what amount to pay the Mayor and Deputy, and in Newport payments have been set at level 2 of the IRP's table for civic head payments. The separate payment schedule for civic heads has been removed. There is still discretion whether or not to pay the civic heads, but where paid, this must be set at Band 3 and 5 respectively.
Determination 4 & 5	Relating to payments to Presiding Members	This does not apply in Newport
Determination 6	The Panel has determined that each authority, through its Democratic Services Committee, must ensure that all its elected members are given as much support as is necessary to enable them to fulfil their duties effectively. All elected members should be provided with adequate telephone, email and internet facilities giving electronic access to appropriate information.	This operates within Newport and members of the Committee are provided with an annual report by the Head of Democratic Services. This effectively represents no change and members may wish to agree with this determination.
Determination 7	The Panel has determined that such support should be without cost to the individual member. Deductions must not be made from members' salaries by the respective authority as a contribution towards the cost of support which the authority has decided necessary for the effectiveness and or efficiency of members.	This operates within Newport This effectively represents no change and members may wish to agree with this determination
Determination 8	The Panel has determined to include a provision for specific or additional senior salaries that do not fall within the current Remuneration Framework.	This represents no change to current arrangements.
Determination 9	The entitlement to join the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) shall apply to all eligible elected members of principal	This represents no change – members may wish to agree this determination

	councils.	
Determinations 10 to 15	These proposed determinations relate to arrangements for payments relating to family absence	The Committee debated and made its view known on the whole issue of family absence previously. The view was that the existing 6-month rule is adequate. That said, the proposals in the draft report represent no change from the current position and members may wish to make no further comment other than to note.
Determinations 16 to 29	These determinations relate to the National Parks Authorities and the Fire and Rescue Service	No comments are offered on these proposals as they do not relate to the Council
Determination 30	Principal Councils, NPAs and FRAs must pay the following fees to Co-opted Members who have voting rights <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chairs of Standards and Audit Committees £256 (4 hours and over) : £128 (up to 4 hours) • Ordinary members of Standards Committee who also Chair Standards Committees for Community/Town Councils £226 daily fee (4 hours and over) : £113 (up to 4 hours) • Ordinary members of Standards Committees; Education Scrutiny Committee, Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee and Audit Committee £198 (4 hours and over) : £99 (up to 4 hours) 	No change is proposed. Members may wish to agree these proposals
Determination 31	Reasonable time for pre meeting preparation is to be included in claims made by co-opted members the extent of which can be determined by the appropriate officer in advance of the meeting.	Effectively this means no change to existing arrangements is proposed. Members may wish to agree these proposals
Determination 32	Travelling time to and from the place of the meeting can be included in the claims for payments made by co-opted members (up to the maximum of the daily rate).	Effectively this means no change to existing arrangements is proposed. Members may wish to agree these proposals
Determination 33	The appropriate officer within the authority can determine in advance whether a meeting is programmed for a full day and the fee will be paid on the basis of this determination even if the meeting finishes before four hours has elapsed.	The Council has determined the Monitoring Officer as the appropriate officer. Effectively this means no change to existing arrangements is proposed. Members may wish to agree these proposals
Determination 34	Fees must be paid for meetings and other activities including other committees and working groups (including task and finish groups), pre-meetings with officers, training and attendance at conferences or	No Change is proposed. Members may wish to agree these proposals

	any other formal meeting to which co-opted members are requested to attend.	
Determination 35	The Panel has determined that each authority, through its Democratic Services Committee or other appropriate committee, must ensure that all voting co-opted members are given as much support as is necessary to enable them to fulfil their duties effectively. Such support should be without cost to the individual member.	This is a new provision. The Committee may wish to agree these proposals and/or include this as a matter to consider specifically when next reviewing member support.
Determination 36	All authorities must provide for the reimbursement of necessary costs for the care of dependent children and adults (provided by informal or formal carers) and for personal assistance needs up to a maximum of £403 per month. Reimbursement must be for the additional costs incurred by members in order for them to carry out their approved duties. Reimbursement shall only be made on production of receipts from the carer.	No change is proposed. Members may wish to agree these proposals.
Determinations 37 - 45	Determinations 44 - 51 relate to Community / Town Councils.	No comments offered

Financial Summary

There is no financial cost to making a response. The IRPW determination to increase salaries will need to be accommodated within existing budget resources.

Risks

Should the Council not provide a response to the draft report, clearly the ability to comment and influence the final decisions will be lost. The opportunity to ask for clarity or guidance will also be lost.

Links to Council Policies and Priorities

There is no direct link to Newport's individual policies or plans as this is a national issue about payments to Councillors.

Options Available

1. To respond based on the suggested response set out in the report
2. To amend the suggested response after consideration of the report
3. Not to respond after consideration of the report.

Preferred Option and Why

1. Members would wish to consider the proposals set out in this report and may wish to amend the proposed response.
2. Members may conclude not to respond

The preferred option is option 1 as should we make no response the ability to comment and influence the final decisions will be lost. The opportunity to ask for clarity or guidance will also be lost.

Comments of Chief Financial Officer

To follow

Comments of Monitoring Officer

There are no specific legal issues arising from the Report. The IRP has statutory power under Section 147 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 to set Members Allowances. They have invited comments on their draft proposals for 19/20. Democratic Services Committee have previously expressed the opinion that it would not be appropriate to comment on the amounts of basic and senior salaries being proposed by the IRP and have taken the view that all salaries should be prescribed by the IRP and not left to the discretion of individual councils. The latest proposals would remove further discretionary elements but there is still some element of local discretion.

The report recommends that basic salaries should be increased by 1.97% (£268) and senior salaries increased by a flat rate of £800, in line with average earnings. However, the IRP recognises that the allowances have to be “affordable” in accordance with the Measure.

The only remaining discretionary elements are in relation to the civic salaries payable to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor. The Council has discretion as to whether or not to pay these salaries and, currently, can determine the level at which they should be paid. Under the new proposals, the amounts to be paid (if agreed) would be fixed at Band 3 (£22,568) for the mayor and Band 5 (£17,568) for the Deputy.

The costs of care will continue to be paid as a separate reimbursement rather than as part of a member’s salary, to encourage more eligible members to apply for reimbursement. The rules on publication will also continue to be relaxed to enable councils to anonymise these payments and not identify the individual members concerned. DSC may wish to recommend to full Council that only the total amount of care costs reimbursed by the authority during the year should be published and not the names of the individual members claiming reimbursement.

Staffing Implications: Comments of Head of People and Business Change

To follow

Background Papers

Draft Independent Remuneration Panel Annual Report and Cover Letter

Dated: 1 November 2018



To:

Leaders and Chief Executives of County and County Borough Councils
Chairs and Chief Executives of National Park Authorities
Chairs and Clerks of Fire and Rescue Authorities
Chair and Chief Executive of One Voice Wales
Leader and Chief Executive of Welsh Local Government Association
Head of Democratic/Members Services of County and County
Borough Councils, National Park Authorities and Fire and Rescue Authorities
Community & Town Councils

2 October 2018

Dear Colleague

Independent Remuneration for Wales – Annual Report 2019/20

The Panel's draft Annual Report for 2019/20 is attached. We would appreciate and welcome comments during the consultation period which ends on 27 November 2018.

Last year the Panel visited all 22 principal councils and met over 400 elected members and many chief officers. We have taken account of many of the issues that were raised during the visits and published a report on our findings. The report is available on the Panel's website.

The draft Report contains proposed changes to our remuneration framework including a small increase in the basic salary and some significant changes in respect of community & town councils.

We will consider all of the responses to this draft prior to producing the final Report for publication in February 2019.

Yours sincerely

John Bader

Chair

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Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales

Annual Report

DRAFT

February 2019

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

FOREWORD

Last year the Panel visited each of the 22 principal councils and met with many members and officers. We produced and published a report setting out our findings from the visit. The report is available on the Panel's website.

In this draft Annual Report we have reflected some of the issues that arose during our visits. We have previously indicated that payments to councillors have not kept pace with the original comparator the Panel used to establish an appropriate level of remuneration because of pressures on public expenditure. The effect of this can be seen in the table and graph that we have included in this report.

We are proposing another modest increase in the basic salary of elected members of principal councils which will at least prevent further erosion. For the first time in several years we are also proposing a small increase in the remuneration of leaders and executive members.

The Panel is also proposing further changes in respect of payments to members of community and town councils.

As ever, we will appreciate receiving responses to this draft Report by the deadline contained in the covering letter.

John Bader
Chair

Panel Membership

John Bader – Chair
Gregory Owens - Vice Chair
Stephen Mulholland

Julie May
Saz Willey
Roger Symonds

Detailed information about the members can be found on the website:

<http://gov.wales/irpwsb/home/?lang=en>

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Introduction



This is the eleventh Annual Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (the Panel), and the eighth published under the requirements of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011(as amended).

1. As with all the Panel's Annual Reports the determinations on member remuneration are underpinned by the principles set out in Section 1.
2. The Panel has consistently expressed its view that maintaining the democratic values of local governance cannot be cost-free. Members of local authorities (including co-opted and appointed members) are there to represent the interests of local people, undertake the governance of local communities, and secure appropriate value-for-money public services for local tax-payers through effective scrutiny for which they are accountable to their community. These are significant and important tasks for members of the relevant authorities within the Panel's remit. Payments to members are made available to encourage a diversity of willing and able people to undertake local governance through their elected, appointed or co-opted roles.
3. In determining the level of payments to members of local councils, the Panel seeks to meet the principle of '*acceptability*' by ensuring that these are not '*so great as to require a significant diversion of resources from key council priorities*'. But Section 142(8) of the Measure is more explicit on '*affordability*' when it states that "*when setting an amount¹ ...the Panel must take into account what it considers will be the likely financial impact of doing so on relevant authorities*". Meeting the requirement of the Measure in regard to affordability has been a challenge for the Panel, not least because of public interest in the payments made to members. The Panel acknowledges that the issue of affordability – in relation both to relevant authorities' service budgets and to the electorate's disposable incomes – is likely to impact on the public perception of any increases to members' payments.
4. However, payments to members for their time, worth and responsibility must be, and must be seen to be, fair to those undertaking the role. In 2009 the Panel aligned members' payments to the median gross earnings of all full-time employees resident in Wales as reported in the Annual Survey of Hourly Earnings (ASHE). The basic salary at that time was set at three-fifths of the All Wales Median Salary and senior salaries were set at multiples of this annual median salary. In setting these salaries the Panel recognised that there was an unpaid public service contribution.
5. During our visits to all principal councils last year many members expressed the view that, compared with a traditional paid employment the basic salary is too low to attract younger people and to encourage greater diversity. They also pointed out the significant differences between remuneration and support

available to elected members in other levels of government in Wales. They proposed that the level of the basic salary should therefore be raised significantly in recognition of the importance of the role of an elected member of a principal council.

6. The financial constraints on the public sector and particularly local authorities has meant that the link with average Welsh earnings has not been maintained. The Panel considers that this has undervalued the worth of elected members. To avoid further erosion in relation to average earnings the Panel has decided to increase the basic annual salary to £13,868 (an increase of 1.97%).
7. The salaries of leaders and members of the executive have not been increased for several years (except for the increase in the basic element). We consider that holders of these posts have significant functional responsibility and compared to remuneration of many other public sector roles are not well paid. We have therefore proposed a modest increase of £800 (inclusive of the £268 increase in the basic salary).
8. From the discussions during our visits to the principal councils it is clear that very few members are utilising the provision in the Framework to reimburse the costs of care. It appears that some members are still reluctant to claim all that they are entitled to support them in their role, because of concerns about the adverse publicity this can attract (see Annex 4 for the publication options). We urge Democratic Services Committees to take steps to encourage and facilitate greater use of this element of our Framework so that members concerned are not financially disadvantaged.
9. The Panel has continued to contribute wherever possible to enhancing diversity in local government in Wales through its determinations. To take this a step further the Panel has produced a leaflet for prospective candidates on the remuneration of members of councils. We are pleased that several councils have added this leaflet to their website.
10. We have continued to engage with community and town councils and met with several representative groups earlier in the year. We also convened 4 sessions with council clerks to provide an opportunity for clarification about administrative matters. As a result we propose further amendments to our Framework in respect of community and town councils. The proposed determinations for community and town councils are in Section 13.
11. The Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013 amended the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 by inserting Section 143A. This requires that any principal council or fire and rescue authority that intends to change the salary of its Head of Paid Service must consult the Panel unless the change is in keeping with changes applied to other officers. Section 143A also enables the Panel to take a view on anything in the Pay Policy Statement of an authority that relates to the salary of the Head of Paid Service (normally the Chief Executive or Chief Fire Officer). The Local Government (Wales) Act 2015 extended this responsibility, on a temporary basis to Chief Officers of principal authorities. The Panel's approach to its use of these powers is set out in Section 15 of this Report and accords with the guidance issued to the Panel by the Welsh

Government.

12. Since assuming the additional responsibility in respect of changes to the salaries of chief officers of principal councils the Panel has dealt with several submissions each year. The Panel's decisions in the past year are at Section 15.

¹ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/mwa/2011/4/contents/enacted>

1. The Panel's Framework: Principles of Members' Remuneration

Upholding trust and confidence

- 1.1 Citizens rightly expect that all those who choose to serve in local authorities uphold the public trust by embracing the values and ethics implicit in such public service. These principles underpin the contribution that the work of the Panel and its Framework make towards upholding public trust and confidence.

Simplicity

- 1.2 The Framework is clear and understandable. This is essential for the Panel to be able to communicate its determinations effectively to all those who are affected by, or who have an interest in its work.

Remuneration

- 1.3 The Framework provides for payment to members of local authorities who carry a responsibility for serving their communities. The level of payment should not act as a barrier to taking up or continuing in post. There should be no requirement that resources necessary to enable the discharge of duties are funded from the payment. The Framework provides additional payments for those who are given greater levels of responsibility.

Diversity

- 1.4 Democracy is strengthened when the membership of local authorities adequately reflects the demographic and cultural make-up of the communities such authorities serve. The Panel will always take in to account the contribution its Framework can make in encouraging the participation of those who are significantly under-represented at local authority level.

Accountability

- 1.5 Taxpayers and citizens have the right to receive value for money from public funds committed to the remuneration of those who are elected, appointed or co-opted to serve in the public interest. The Panel expects all principal councils to make information readily and appropriately available about the activities and remuneration of their members.

Fairness

- 1.6 The Framework will be capable of being applied consistently to members of all local authorities within the Panel's remit as a means of ensuring that levels of remuneration are fair, affordable and generally acceptable.

Quality

- 1.7 The Panel recognises that the complex mix of governance, scrutiny and regulatory duties incumbent upon members requires them to engage with a process of continuous quality improvement. The Panel expects members to undertake such training and personal development opportunities as are required to properly discharge the duties for which they are remunerated.

Transparency

- 1.8 Transparency of members' remuneration is in the public interest. Some members receive additional levels of remuneration by virtue of being elected or appointed to more than one public body. The Framework serves to ensure that knowledge of all members' remuneration is made easily available to the public.

Remuneration of Officers

- 1.9 The Panel applies these principles of fairness, accountability and transparency in all its determinations in relation to remuneration of members of all the authorities that fall within its remit. The same principles also apply when the Panel is required to make recommendations in relation to the remuneration of the paid officers of these authorities.

2. Annual Report Summary Page

Type of Payment	Type of Authority			
	Principal Councils	National Park Authorities	Fire and Rescue Authorities	Community and Town Councils
Basic Salary	page 12	page 26	page 30	N/A ²
Senior Roles	page 15	page 26	page 30	page 42
Committee Chairs	page 15	page 26	page 30	N/A
Opposition Groups	page 15	N/A	N/A	N/A
Civic Heads and Deputies	page 16	N/A	N/A	page 44
Presiding Members	page 17	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mileage	page 38	page 38	page 38	page 43
Other Travel Costs	page 38	page 38	page 38	page 43
Subsistence Costs	page 39	page 39	page 39	page 43
Costs of Care	page 35	page 35	page 35	page 44
Family Absence	page 24	N/A	N/A	N/A
Sickness Absence	page 36	page 36	page 36	N/A
Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committees	page 22	N/A	N/A	N/A
Pension	page 23	N/A	N/A	N/A
Co-optees	page 33	page 33	page 33	N/A
Specific or Additional Allowances	page 20	page 27	page 31	N/A
Payments to Community and Town Councillors	N/A	N/A	N/A	page 40
Compensation for Financial Loss	N/A	N/A	N/A	page 43
Statement of Payments	page 79	page 79	page 79	page 79
Schedule of Remuneration	Page 77	Page 77	Page 77	N/A
Salaries of Chief Executives and Chief Officers	Page 50	N/A	Page 50	N/A

² Not Applicable

3. Payments to Elected Members of Principal Councils: Basic, Senior and Civic Salaries

Basic salary for elected members of principal councils

3.1 The Panel in 2009 aligned the basic salary to the median gross earnings of all full-time employees resident in Wales as reported in the Annual Survey of Hourly Earnings (ASHE). Given the pressures on public expenditure it has not been possible for this alignment to be maintained. If this alignment had continued the basic salary would currently be significantly higher than the current prescribed amount (close to £16,000 pa). This is calculated on an assumption that the basic activity required of an elected member (i.e. without the additional work required for a senior salary) is equivalent to three days' work.

3.1.1 The tables below represent IRPW determinations on changes in pay of backbench members in Wales, together with 4 measures of possible alternative rates of increases, over the subsequent 8 years. Table 1 gives the percentage increases. Table 2 gives the actual figures. Retail Price Index (RPI) and Consumer Price Index (CPI) have been adopted by government and many organisations as appropriate inflationary measures. The National Joint Council (NJC) scale (a measure of public sector pay) takes spinal point 27 as an appropriate comparator figure to the members' basic rate. The All Wales Median Salary is published by the National Statistical Office. The 2010 starting figure in all cases is £13,868.

3.1.2 To set this in the context of other Welsh elected members, over this same period assembly members' salaries have increased by 24% (£53,852 to £66,874 - now indexed to Average Salaries in Wales ASHE) and MPs' salaries have increased by 17.7% (£65,738 to £77,379).

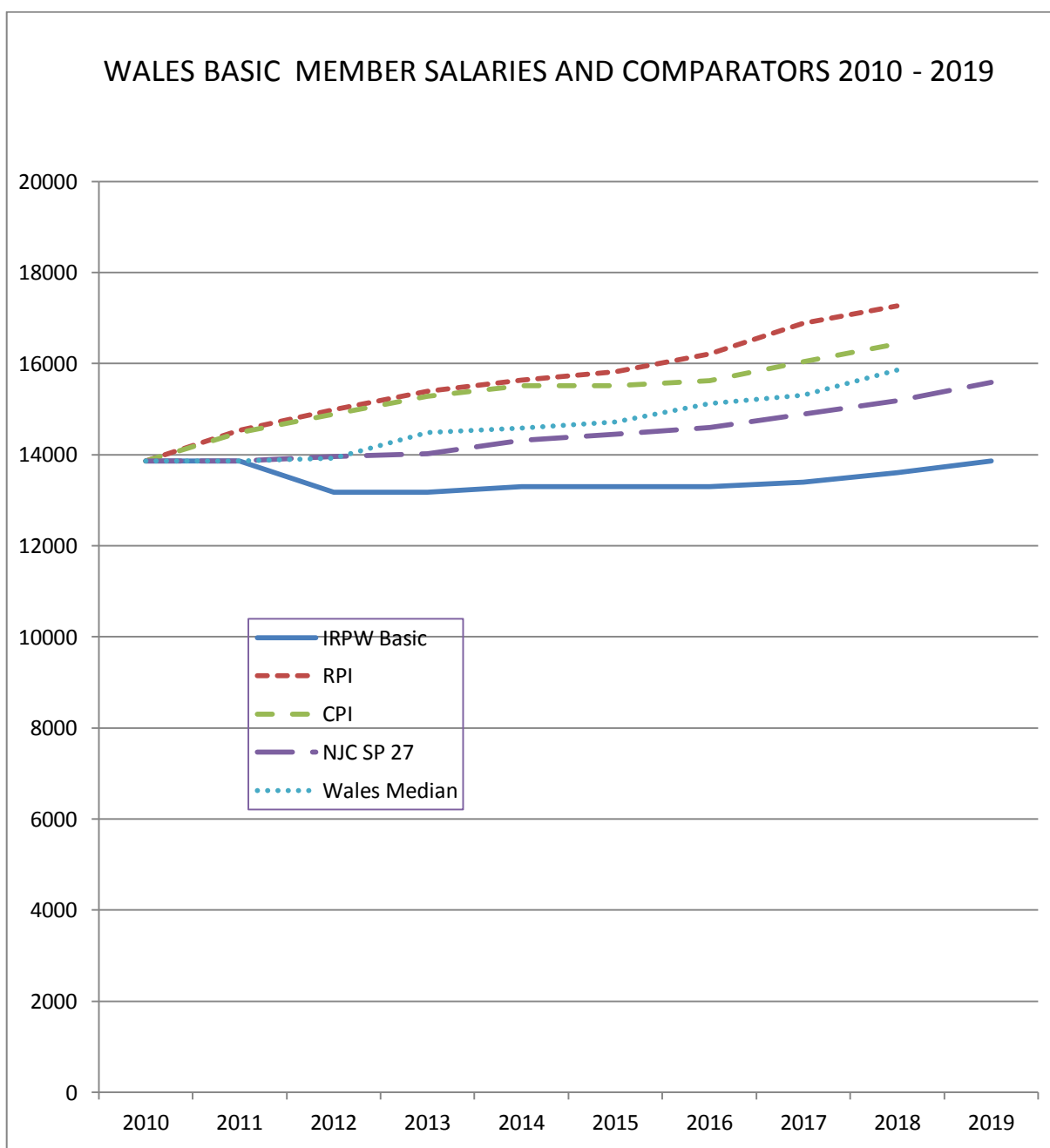
3.1.3 Thus, backbench members' salaries have remained relatively static over the last 9 years and, in real terms, have fallen significantly behind by any reasonable measure.

Table 1: Basic Members' salaries and alternative comparators 2010-18 by percentage

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
IRPW Basic	3.8	0	-5.0	0	0.95	0	0	0.75	1.5	1.97
RPI	4.8	4.8	3.1	2.7	1.6	1.2	2.5	4.1	2.3	
CPI	3.3	4.5	2.8	2.6	1.5	0	0.7	2.7	2.4	
NJC SP 27	0	0	0.7	0.43	2.05	1.0	1.0	2.0	2.0	2.6
Wales Median	2.5	0	0.44	4.0	0.64	1.0	2.7	1.2	3.6	

Table 2: Basic Members' salaries and alternative comparators 2010-18 by actual

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
IRPW Basic	13868	13868	13175	13175	13300	13300	13300	13400	13600	13868
RPI	13868	14533	14984	15388	15635	15822	16218	16883	17271	
CPI	13868	14492	14897	15285	15514	15514	15623	16044	16429	
NJC SP 27	13868	13868	13965	14025	14312	14455	14600	14892	15190	15585
Wales Median	13868	13868	13929	14486	14579	14725	15122	15303	15855	



- 3.2 The Panel remains aware that the core activities required of an elected member of a principal council vary. Duties undertaken should enable all members to discharge their core non-executive responsibilities in the governance of their council and in representing those living in their ward. As an elected role, such posts are not readily treated in the same manner as employment with precisely quantified hours. The work that arises in representing ward residents is particularly varied because it is influenced by the very diverse socio-economic conditions, demographics, levels of urbanisation and different ratios of residents to councillors. These circumstances can vary significantly within individual authorities as well as in comparisons of local authorities throughout Wales. Elected positions carry an expectation of a level of personal commitment to community that goes beyond defined remunerated hours. Elected members commonly report time spent that is well in excess of the notional three days (extra time worked and previously defined by the Panel as a 'public service discount').
- 3.3 In 2017 Panel members visited all Welsh principal councils to meet with elected members to inform and update their understanding of elected and co-opted member activities. During 2018 the Panel will continue its regular liaison with councillors and officers. Panel members will meet with the Chairs of Democratic Services Committees and their officers and meet with Council Leaders and other elected member representatives under the auspices of the WLGA. The Panel has also, through varied correspondence with councils and individual council members and others maintained its ongoing dialogue. The position generally expressed by councillors and officers remains, particularly in the context of austerity, that the basic workload discharged by all elected members is substantial and significantly exceeds 3 days per week.
- 3.4 When making financial determinations for this Annual Report, the Panel has considered the progression of a variety of benchmark figures for the period from 2010 to 2017. As well as the ASHE median gross earnings figures for Wales the Panel also considered the RPI, the CPI, NJC Pay Scales and Living Wage figures. As shown in Table 1 above, the gap between the level of basic remuneration for elected members of principal councils and relevant indicators of rises in income and costs of living indicators has continued to grow. In 2017 the Panel began action to narrow the gap and limit the rate of erosion. Any adjustments have been in keeping with the Panel's principle that its determinations should be affordable and acceptable. Although public sector funding continues to be constrained, the information set out in Table 1 and Table 2 supports the Panel's consideration that a further increase in the basic salary is justified. It has determined there shall be an increase of £268 a year which equates to 1.97%. This restores the level of the basic salary to the amount paid in 2011. The proposed increase applies to the basic salary for members of principal councils in recognition of the basic duties expected of all elected members.

Senior salaries for elected members of principal councils

- 3.5 The limit on the number of senior salaries payable ('the cap') will remain in place. In 2019/20 the maximum number of senior salaries payable within each council will not be altered and will be as set out in Table 3. This reflects the increase to the cap for the Isle of Anglesey Council as set out in the Panel's supplementary report issued in 2017.

Determination 1: Basic salary in 2019/20 for elected members of principal councils shall be £13,868.

Table 3: Maximum numbers of council membership eligible for payment of a senior salary

Council	Number of councillors	Number of senior salaries
Group A (populations over 200,000)		
Cardiff	75	19
Rhondda Cynon Taf	75	19
Swansea	72	19
Group B (populations of 100,000 to 200,000)		
Bridgend	54	18
Caerphilly	73	18
Carmarthenshire	74	18
Conwy	59	18
Flintshire	70	18
Gwynedd	75	18
Neath Port Talbot	64	18
Newport	50	18
Pembrokeshire	60	18
Powys	73	18
Vale of Glamorgan	47	18
Wrexham	52	18
Group C (populations of up to 100,000)		
Blaenau Gwent	42	17
Ceredigion	42	17
Denbighshire	47	17
Isle of Anglesey	30	16
Merthyr Tydfil	33	16
Monmouthshire	43	17
Torfaen	44	17

Payments to members of the Executive, Chairs of committees and the Leader of the Opposition

3.6 The Panel has not increased the senior salaries paid to these post holders for six years. They have only received any increase in the basic salary applicable to all members.

The Executive

- 3.6.1 In 2009 the Panel concluded that Executive members should be considered as working the equivalent of full time (up to 40 hours per week) but not necessarily nine to five. Continued discussions with members and officers have reinforced this conclusion. In fact many executive members indicated that their workload has increased and concerns were also expressed by many members that the

differential in salary between a chair of a committee and a member of an executive did not recognise the difference in responsibility or workload.

- 3.6.2 In recognition of this the Panel has determined that there should be an increase to the Band 1 and Band 2 senior salaries payable to the Leader, the Deputy Leader and Executive Members.
- 3.6.3 The amount of the increase is £800. This is inclusive of the £268 increase to the basic salary that all members will receive as set out in Determination 2.

Chairs of Committees

- 3.6.4 There is a significant difference in the responsibilities and functions of chairing different committees. Councils are reminded that they do not have to pay chairs of committees. It is a matter for each council to decide which, if any, chairs of committees are remunerated. This allows councils to take account of differing levels of responsibility.
- 3.6.5 Where chairs of committees are paid, the remuneration is: £22,568.

The Senior Salary Bands

Determination 2: The Panel has determined that senior salary levels in 2019/20 for members of principal councils shall be as set out in Table 4.

Table 4: Basic salary and senior salaries payable to members of principal councils

Basic salary (payable to all elected members) £13,868			
	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)
Senior salaries (inclusive of basic salary)			
Band 1 Leader	£54,100	£49,100	£44,100
Deputy leader	£38,100	£34,600	£31,100
Band 2 Executive members	£33,100	£30,100	£27,100
Band 3 Committee chairs (if remunerated):		£22,568	
Band 4 Leader of largest opposition group ³		£22,568	
Band 5 Leader of other political groups		£17,568	

Table 4 notes:

- a. The Panel considers that the leadership and executive roles (Band 1 and 2 salaries respectively) carry the greatest individual accountability and that 'size of population' remains a major factor in influencing levels of responsibility and

the use of the three population groups (A, B and C) has therefore been retained. For information: Group A Population 200,000 and above; Group B Population 100,001 to 199,999; Group C Population up to 100,000.

- b. It is proposed to increase Band 1 and Band 2 senior salaries for Leader, Deputy Leader and Executive Members by £800, inclusive of the £268 increase on the basic salary that all members will receive.
- c. Committee chairs will be paid at Band 3. It is a matter for each council to decide which, if any, chairs of committees are remunerated. This allows councils to take account of differing levels of responsibility.
- d. The stipulation that an opposition group leader or any other group leader must represent at least 10% of the council membership before qualifying for a senior salary remains unchanged.
- e. The Panel has determined that a council must make a senior salary available to the leader of the largest opposition group.
- f. The Panel has determined that, if remunerated, a Band 5 senior salary must be paid to leaders of other political groups.

See IRPW Regulations, Annex 2, Part 1(2) for a definition of “*largest opposition group*” and “*other political group*”.

³ Leader of largest opposition group. See IRPW Regulations, Annex 2, Part 1(2) for a definition of “*largest opposition group*” and “*other political group*”.

Payments to Civic Heads and Deputies (Civic Salaries)

- 3.7 The Panel notes that most councils have currently set salaries for civic heads and deputies to accord with their population groups, rather than to reflect the specific responsibilities attached to the roles. Councils have strongly expressed to the Panel that elected members do not wish to make any choices that require Councils themselves to choose and match the level of activity or duties of a specific member to a given range of salary levels for a role. All such choices are now removed. In the case of civic salaries, if paid, the payment for Band 3 is set at £22,568 for a civic head and at the Band 5 salary of £17,568 for a deputy civic head (Determination 3).
- 3.8 A council may decide not to apply any civic salary to the posts of civic head and/or deputy civic head.
- 3.9 The posts of civic head and deputy civic head are not included in the cap (with the exception of Isle of Anglesey and Merthyr Tydfil Councils).

Determination 3: The Panel has determined that (where paid) a civic head must be paid a Band 3 salary of £22,568 and (where paid) a deputy civic head must be paid a Band 5 salary of £17,568.

- 3.10 Civic heads are senior posts within councils which are distinct from political or executive leadership. In addition to chairing major meetings the civic head is the authority's 'first citizen' and 'ambassador' representing the council to a wide variety of institutions and organisations. The Panel's requirement that members should not have to pay for the cost of the support (see determination 7) that is needed to carry out their duties applies also in respect of deputy civic heads.
- 3.11 In many instances civic heads receive secretarial support and are provided with transport for official duties and can access a separate hospitality budget which is managed and controlled by council officers.
- 3.12 The Panel recognises the wide range of provision made for civic heads in respect of transport, secretarial support, charitable giving and clothing. Funding decisions in relation to levels of such additional support are not matters of personal remuneration, but of the funding required to carry out the tasks and duties. These matters remain entirely a matter for individual councils. Councils remain free to invest in support at whatever levels they deem appropriate for the levels of civic leadership they have in place.
- 3.13 The Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013 allows councils to appoint a presiding member whose role is to chair meetings of the whole council. Where appointed, there would be a consequential reduction in the responsibilities of the respective civic head.

Payments to Presiding Members

- 3.14 Councils are reminded that if a presiding member is appointed they do not have to be remunerated. If they are remunerated the post will count towards the cap and be paid at a Band 3 senior salary of £22,568.

Determination 4: The Panel has determined that, where appointed and if remunerated, a presiding member must be paid a Band 3 senior salary of £22,568.

Determination 5: The Panel has determined that the post of deputy presiding member will not be remunerated.

Key factors underpinning the Panel's determinations:

- 3.15 The basic salary, paid to all elected members, is remuneration for the responsibility of community representation and participation in the scrutiny, regulatory and related functions of local governance for the time equivalent of three days a week. Any time commitment beyond three days is an unpaid public service contribution.
- 3.16 The prescribed salary and expenses must be paid in full to each member unless an individual has independently and voluntarily opted in writing to the authority's proper officer to forego all or any element of the payment. It is fundamental that there is transparency in this process so any possible suggestion that members are put under pressure to forego some of the salaries is avoided.

The following must be applied:

- a) An elected member must not be remunerated for more than one senior post within his or her authority
- b) An elected member must not be paid a senior salary and a civic salary
- c) All senior and civic salaries are paid inclusive of basic salary
- d) If a council chooses to have more than one remunerated deputy leader, the difference between the senior salary for the deputy leader and other executive members should be divided by the number of deputy leaders and added to the senior salary for other executive members in order to calculate the senior salary payable to each deputy leader
- e) Members in receipt of a Band 1 or Band 2 senior salary cannot receive a salary from any NPA or FRA to which they have been appointed
- f) Members in receipt of a Band 1 or Band 2 salary cannot receive any payment from a Community or Town Council of which they are a member other than travel and subsistence expenses and reimbursement of costs of care

Supporting the work of local authority elected members

- 3.17 Following the local elections in 2017 Panel members undertook visits to all principal authorities in Wales. These visits provided valuable opportunities for members and officers to discuss the variations that occur and to share and understand the benefits gained by properly supporting the ability of members to discharge their basic duties effectively.
- 3.18 The Panel expects the support provided should take account of the specific needs of individual members. The functions of Democratic Services Committees include a requirement to review the level of support provided to members to carry out their duties and the Panel would expect these committees to carry this out and bring forward proposals to the full council as

to what is considered to be reasonable. Any proposals should be made with due regard to Determinations 6 and 7 below. For example, the Panel does not consider it appropriate that elected members should be required to pay for any telephone usage to enable them to discharge their council duties as a ward member, committee member or cabinet member.

- 3.19 The Panel considers it is necessary for each elected member to have ready use of e-mail services, and electronic access to appropriate information via an internet connection. The Panel does not consider it appropriate that elected members should be required to pay for internet related services to enable them to discharge their council duties as a ward member, committee member or cabinet member. This comprises the necessary provision for a member to be in proper contact with council services and to maintain contact with those they represent. Many councils in Wales are committed to 'paperless working' and without electronic access members would be significantly limited in their ability to discharge their duties. It is not appropriate for facilities required by members to be available only within council offices within office hours.
- 3.20 The responsibility of each council through its Democratic Services Committee to provide support should be based on an assessment of the needs of its members. When members' additional needs or matters of disability apply, or there are specific training requirements indicated, each authority will need to assess any particular requirements of individual members.
- 3.21 For co-opted members the support requirements are set out in section 9 and determination 35.

Determination 6: The Panel has determined that each authority, through its Democratic Services Committee, must ensure that all its elected members are given as much support as is necessary to enable them to fulfil their duties effectively. All elected members should be provided with adequate telephone, email and internet facilities giving electronic access to appropriate information.

Determination 7: The Panel has determined that such support should be without cost to the individual member. Deductions must not be made from members' salaries by the respective authority as a contribution towards the cost of support which the authority has decided necessary for the effectiveness and or efficiency of members.

Specific or additional senior salaries

- 3.22 The Panel has allowed for greater flexibility through the provision for authorities to apply for specific or additional senior salaries that do not fall within the current remuneration Framework, or which could not be accommodated within the maximum number of senior salaries relating to the authority. If the proposed addition is approved and results in the council exceeding its cap, this will be included in the approval (with exception of Merthyr Tydfil and the Isle of Anglesey Councils – see footnote 4). Some councils have raised the possibility of operating some senior salary posts on a “job share” arrangement. The Panel is supportive of this principle and the process is set out in Paragraph 3.24.

Determination 8: The Panel has determined to include a provision for specific or additional senior salaries that do not fall within the current Remuneration Framework.

- 3.23 Guidance to local authorities on the application process was issued in April 2014 and incorporated the following principles:
- a. The total number of senior salaries cannot exceed fifty percent⁴ of the membership.
 - b. Applications will have to be approved by the authority as a whole (this cannot be delegated) prior to submission to the Panel.
 - c. There must be clear evidence that the post/posts have additional responsibility demonstrated by a description of the role, function and duration.
 - d. Each application will have to indicate the timing for a formal review of the role to be considered by the authority as a whole.

⁴Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 Section 142 (5) The proportion fixed by the Panel in accordance with subsection (4) may not exceed fifty percent unless the consent of the Welsh Ministers has been obtained.

3.24 **Job Sharing Arrangements**

For members of an executive: Each “sharer” will be paid an appropriate proportion of the salary of the Population Group.

The statutory maximum for cabinets cannot be exceeded so each job sharer will count toward the maximum.

Under the Measure, it is the number of persons in receipt of a senior salary, not the number of senior salary posts that count towards the cap. Therefore, for all job share arrangements the senior salary cap will be increased subject to the statutory maximum of 50% of the council’s membership.

The Panel must be informed of the details of any job share arrangements.

The Panel’s determinations on Travel and Subsistence, Reimbursement of Costs of Care and Family Absence are now set out in separate sections of this Annual Report.

4. Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committees (JOSC)

- 4.1 As no council has made use of the arrangements notwithstanding that Regulations are still in force, the Panel has decided to delete the payment from the Framework. If, in future, a JOSC is formed by specific councils they can apply to remunerate using the arrangements of paragraphs 3.22 and 3.23.

5. Pension Provision for Elected Members of Principal Councils

- 5.1 The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 provides a power to the Panel to make determinations on pension entitlement for elected members of principal councils.

Determination 9: The entitlement to join the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) shall apply to all eligible elected members of principal councils.

6. Entitlement to Family Absence

This section applies to elected members of principal authorities.

- 6.1 The Regulations relating to Family Absence for elected members of principal councils were approved by the National Assembly for Wales in November 2013⁶ and cover maternity, new born, adoption and parental absences from official business.
- 6.2 The Panel considered the implications for the remuneration of such members who are given absence under the terms of the Welsh Government Regulations and the Panel's determinations are set out below.

Determination 10: An elected member is entitled to retain a basic salary when taking family absence under the regulations irrespective of the attendance record immediately preceding the commencement of the family absence.

Determination 11: When a senior salary holder is eligible for family absence, they will continue to receive the salary for the duration of the absence.

Determination 12: It is a matter for the authority to decide whether or not to make a substitute appointment. The elected member substituting for a senior salary holder taking family absence will be eligible to be paid a senior salary, if the authority so decides.

Determination 13: If the paid substitution results in the authority exceeding the maximum number of senior salaries which relates to it, as set out in the Panel's Annual Report, an addition to the maximum will be allowed for the duration of the substitution. However, this will not apply to the Isle of Anglesey or Merthyr Tydfil Councils if it would result in the number of senior salaries exceeding fifty percent of the Council membership. Specific approval of Welsh Ministers is required in such circumstances.

Determination 14: When a Council agrees a paid substitution for family absence, the Panel must be informed, within 14 days of the date of the decision, of the details including the particular post and the duration of the substitution.

Determination 15: The Council's schedule of remuneration must be amended to reflect the implication of the family absence.

⁶ http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2013/2901/pdfs/wsi_20132901_mi.pdf

7. Payments to Members of National Park Authorities (NPAs)

Structure of National Park Authorities

- 7.1 The 3 National Parks in Wales - Brecon Beacons, Pembrokeshire Coast and Snowdonia were formed to protect spectacular landscapes and provide recreation opportunities for the public. The Environment Act 1995 led to the creation of the 3 corresponding NPAs. In managing the National Park, the Authority has 3 main purposes:
- to protect the natural beauty of the Park;
 - to help visitors enjoy and understand it;
 - and to foster the wellbeing of local people.
- 7.2 National Park Authorities have a committee of Members who are either elected members nominated by the Principal Councils within the National Park area or are members appointed by the Welsh Government through the Public Appointments Process. Welsh Government appointed and council nominated members are treated equally in relation to remuneration.
- 7.3 The structure of the Members' Committee at each of the 3 national parks is set out in Table 5.

Table 5: Membership of Welsh National Park Authorities

National Park Authority	Total Membership	Principal Council Members	Welsh Government appointed Members
Brecon Beacons	24	16: Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council – 1 Carmarthenshire County Council – 2 Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council – 1 Monmouthshire County Council – 2 Powys County Council – 8 Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council - 1 Torfaen County Borough Council – 1	8
Pembrokeshire Coast	18	12: Pembrokeshire County Council – 12	6
Snowdonia	18	12: Conwy County Borough Council – 3 Gwynedd Council – 9	6

- 7.4 In addition, Standards Committees of NPAs have Independent Co-opted members whose remuneration is included in the Framework as set out in Section 9.

7.5 In considering remuneration of members of NPAs, the Panel has based its determinations on the following key points:

- NPAs manage their work via formal authority meetings, committees and task and finish groups. Each has a Development/Management/Planning Committee, and other committees include Performance and Resources and Audit and Scrutiny. Ordinary NPA members are members of at least one committee as well as being involved in site visits and inspection panels.
- There is an expectation that members will participate in training and development.
- The Chair of an NPA has a leadership and influencing role in the authority, a representational role similar in some respects to that of a civic head and a high level of accountability. The chair is not only the leader of the authority but is also the public face of the particular national park and is the link with the Minister and AMs with whom they have regular meetings. The role requires a high level of commitment and time.

Basic and senior salaries

7.6 The Panel has previously determined that the role of ordinary members of an NPA should be aligned to the basic salary of a member of a principal council, and that the time commitment required is a notional 42 days per year. This remains the basis of the Panel's determinations.

7.7 The Panel has determined there should be an increase of £268 (which equates to 1.97%).

7.8 The Panel note salaries to members of NPAs and principal councils have become misaligned. This is due to cumulative rounding of increases in previous years, the Panel wishes to correct this. Therefore, the salary for ordinary members of NPAs will increase to £3,735.

7.9 The Panel has also previously determined that the remuneration of an NPA Chair should be aligned to that part of a Band 3 Level 1 senior salary received by a committee chair of a principal council. This salary will increase to £12,435.

7.10 The Panel has provided local flexibility so that an NPA can decide at which of two levels the roles of deputy chair and up to 2 other committee chairs can be remunerated. An NPA may choose to pay its deputy chair and/or committee chairs a salary of either £7,435 or £6,135, commensurate with the significant and sustained duties to be discharged in a particular role.

Additional Senior Salaries

- 7.11 Feedback was received during the Panel's visits to NPAs that its determination that up to two NPA Committee Chairs could receive a senior salary could be restrictive in the NPAs discharging their governance requirements.
- 7.12 The Panel allows principal councils greater flexibility to apply for specific or additional senior salaries that do not fall within the current Remuneration Framework. The Panel extends this provision to NPAs as reflected in the following principles:
- a. Applications will have to be approved by the authority as a whole (this cannot be delegated) prior to submission to the Panel.
 - b. There must be clear evidence that the post/posts have additional responsibility demonstrated by a description of the role, function and duration.
 - c. Each application will have to indicate the timing for a formal review of the role to be considered by the authority as a whole.
- 7.13 The Panel has made the following determinations:

Determination 16: The basic salary for NPA ordinary members shall be £3,735.

Determination 17: The senior salary of the Chair of an NPA shall be £12,435.

Determination 18: An NPA senior salary can be paid to a Deputy Chair and up to two committee Chairs where there is significant and sustained responsibility. This can be paid at either of the following levels to be decided by the authority to reflect the appropriate responsibility £7,435 or £6,135.

Determination 19: The Panel has determined to include a provision for NPAs to apply for specific or additional senior salaries that do not fall within the current Remuneration Framework.

Determination 20: Members must not receive more than one NPA senior salary.

Determination 21: An NPA senior salary is paid inclusive of the NPA basic salary and must reflect significant and sustained responsibility.

Determination 22: Members of a principal council in receipt of a Band 1 or Band 2 senior salary cannot receive a salary from any NPA to which they have been appointed.

The Panel's determinations on Travel and Subsistence, Reimbursements of Costs of Care and Family Absence are now set out in separate sections of this Annual Report.

Note: Family absence does not apply to Welsh Government appointed members and local authority nominees are covered by their principal council so NPAs are not required to make any arrangements in this respect.

8. Payments to Members of Welsh Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs)

Structure of Fire and Rescue Authorities

- 8.1 The 3 Fire and Rescue Services in Wales: Mid and West Wales, North Wales and South Wales and FRAs were formed as part of Local Government re-organisation in 1996.
- 8.2 FRAs comprise elected members who are nominated by the Principal Councils within the Fire and Rescue Service area.
- 8.3 The structure of the each of the 3 FRAs is set out in Table 6.

Table 6: Membership of Fire and Rescue Authorities

Name of Fire and Rescue Authority	Number of Local Authority Members
Mid and West Wales	25: Carmarthenshire County Council – 5 Ceredigion County Council – 2 Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council – 4 Pembrokeshire County Council – 3 Powys County Council – 4 Swansea City and County Council – 7
North Wales	28: Conwy County Borough Council – 5 Denbighshire County Council – 4 Flintshire County Council – 6 Gwynedd Council – 5 Isle of Anglesey County Council – 3 Wrexham County Borough Council – 5
South Wales	24: Bridgend County Borough Council – 2 Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council – 1 Caerphilly County Borough Council – 3 Cardiff City Council – 5 Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council – 1 Monmouthshire County Council – 2 Newport City Council - 2 Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council - 4 Torfaen County Borough Council – 2 Vale of Glamorgan Council -2

- 8.4 In addition, Standards Committees of FRAs have independent co-opted members whose remuneration is included in the Framework as set out in Section 9.

8.5 In considering remuneration of members of FRAs, the Panel has based its determinations on the following key points:

- The Chair has a leadership and influencing role in the authority, and a high level of accountability especially when controversial issues relating to the emergency service arise. In addition to fire authority meetings, all FRAs have committees that include in different combinations: audit, performance management, scrutiny, human resources, resource management as well as task and finish groups and disciplinary panels. As well as attending formal meetings of the authority and committees, members are encouraged to take on a community engagement role, including visiting fire stations.
- There is a strong training ethos in FRAs. Members are expected to participate in training and development. Induction programmes are available as well as specialist training for appeals and disciplinary hearings.
- Training sessions often follow on from authority meetings to make the training accessible.

Basic and Senior Salaries

The Panel has previously determined the remuneration of ordinary members of an FRA should be aligned to the basic salary of a member of a principal council and the time commitment required is a notional 20 days per year. This remains the basis of the Panel's determinations. The Panel has determined there should be an increase of £268 (which equates to 1.97%).

- 8.6 The Panel note salary to members of FRAs and principal councils have become misaligned. This is due to cumulative rounding of increases in previous years, the Panel wishes to correct this. The salary for ordinary members of FRAs will increase to £1,780.
- 8.7 The Panel determined that the remuneration of an FRA Chair should be aligned to that part of a Band 3 Level 1 senior salary received by a committee chair of a principal council. This salary will increase to £10,480.
- 8.8 The Panel determined that the remuneration of an FRA Deputy Chair where there is significant and sustained senior responsibility will be aligned with the Band 5 senior salary. This salary will increase to £5,480.
- 8.9 The Panel has determined that up to two FRA committee chairs where there is significant and sustained responsibility can be remunerated.

Additional Senior Salaries

- 8.10 The Panel allows principal councils greater flexibility to apply for specific or additional senior salaries that do not fall within the current Remuneration Framework. The Panel extends this provision to FRAs as reflected in the following principles:
- a. Applications will have to be approved by the authority as a whole (this cannot be delegated) prior to submission to the Panel.
 - b. There must be clear evidence that the post/posts have additional responsibility demonstrated by a description of the role, function and duration.
 - c. Each application will have to indicate the timing for a formal review of the role to be considered by the authority as a whole.

Local Pension Boards

8.11 The Panel has considered requests from FRAs to allow them to pay salaries to Chairs of local pension boards established under the Firefighters' Pension Scheme (Wales) Regulations 2015. Those Regulations already give FRAs the power to decide how local pension boards are to work and to pay the Chair and members if they wish. Therefore it is not appropriate for the Panel to make a determination empowering FRAs to pay salaries to local pension board Chairs. The senior salaries in Determination 25 or 26 cannot be used exclusively for this role.

8.12 The Panel has made the following determinations:

Determination 23: The basic salary for FRA ordinary members shall be £1,780.

Determination 24: The senior salary of the Chair of an FRA shall be £10,480.

Determination 25: An FRA senior salary can be paid to the Deputy Chair and up to two Chairs of committees where there is significant and sustained responsibility. This shall be paid at £5,480.

Determination 26: The Panel has determined to include a provision for FRAs to apply for specific or additional senior salaries that do not fall within the current Remuneration Framework.

Determination 27: Members must not receive more than one FRA senior salary.

Determination 28: An FRA senior salary is paid inclusive of the FRA basic salary and must reflect significant and sustained responsibility.

Determination 29: Members of a principal council in receipt of a Band 1 or Band 2 senior salary cannot receive a salary from any FRA to which they have been nominated.

The Panel's determinations on Travel and Subsistence, Reimbursement of Costs of Care and Family Absence are now set out in separate sections of this Annual Report.

9. Payments to Co-opted Members of Principal Councils, National Park Authorities and Fire & Rescue Authorities ⁷

- 9.1 The Panel has determined that a daily/half daily fee is appropriate remuneration for the important role undertaken by co-opted members of authorities with voting rights (this includes the co-opted member from a Town or Community council). The level of payments is equivalent to the current daily rates for chairs and members of the Welsh Government's Band 2 sponsored bodies. The Panel notes there has been no uplift in these payment levels across such bodies since 2010.
- 9.2 Principal councils, NPAs and FRAs can decide on the maximum number of days in any one year for which co-opted members may be paid. Recognising the important role that co-opted members have, payment must be made for preparation time, committee and other types of meetings as well as other activities, including training, as set out in Determination 31.
- 9.3 The determinations are set out below and principal councils, NPAs and FRAs must tell co-opted members the name of the appropriate officer who will provide them with the information required for their claims; and make the appropriate officer aware of the range of payments that should be made.

Determination 30: Principal councils, NPAs and FRAs must pay the following fees to co-opted members who have voting rights (Table 7).

Table 7: Fees for co-opted members (with voting rights)

Chairs of standards, and audit committees	£256 (4 hours and over) £128 (up to 4 hours)
Ordinary members of standards committees who also chair standards committees for community and town councils	£226 daily fee (4 hours and over) £113 (up to 4 hours)
Ordinary members of standards committees; education scrutiny committee; crime and disorder scrutiny committee and audit committee	£198 (4 hours and over) £99 (up to 4 hours)
Community and town councillors sitting on principal council standards committees	£198 (4 hours and over) £99 (up to 4 hours)

Determination 31: Reasonable time for pre meeting preparation is to be included in claims made by co-opted members the extent of which can be determined by the appropriate officer in advance of the meeting.

Determination 32: Travelling time to and from the place of the meeting is to be included in the claims for payments made by co-opted members (up to the maximum of the daily rate).

Determination 33: The appropriate officer within the authority can determine in advance whether a meeting is programmed for a full day and the fee will be paid on the basis of this determination even if the meeting finishes before four hours has elapsed.

Determination 34: Fees must be paid for meetings and other activities including other committees and working groups (including task and finish groups), pre-meetings with officers, training and attendance at conferences or any other formal meeting to which co-opted members are requested to attend.

Support for co-opted members

- 9.4 The Panel's visits to principal councils in 2017 identified some good practice in how the important role of co-opted members was reflected in the communication and support they receive. In the best cases, they received the same range of support as elected members, enabling them to undertake their role fully. However, concerns were raised in several councils where the Panel's Determinations were not being fully implemented and there was limited support available for co-opted members.

Determination 35: The Panel has determined that each authority, through its Democratic Services Committee or other appropriate committee, must ensure that all voting co-opted members are given as much support as is necessary to enable them to fulfil their duties effectively. Such support should be without cost to the individual member.

The Panel's determinations on Travel and Subsistence, Reimbursement of Costs of Care and Family Absence are now set out in separate sections of this Annual Report.

⁷ This section does not apply to co-opted members to community and town councils.

10. Reimbursement of Costs of Care

- 10.1 This section applies to members of principal councils, National Park Authorities, Fire and Rescue Authorities and to co-opted members of these authorities. The same provision for Community and Town Councils is given in section 13.
- 10.2 The purpose of this section is to enable people who have personal support needs and or caring responsibilities to carry out their duties effectively as a member of an authority. The Panel believes that additional costs of care required to carry out approved duties should not deter people from becoming and remaining a member of an authority or limit their ability to carry out the role.
- 10.3 The Panel recognises the issues relating to the publication of this legitimate expense. This is reflected in the options for publication as set out in Annex 4. To support current members and to encourage diversity the Panel urges authorities to promote and encourage greater take-up of the reimbursement of costs of care.

Determination 36: All authorities must provide for the reimbursement of necessary costs for the care of dependent children and adults (provided by informal or formal carers) and for personal assistance needs up to a maximum of £403 per month. Reimbursement must be for the additional costs incurred by members in order for them to carry out their approved duties. Reimbursement shall only be made on production of receipts from the carer.

11. Sickness Absence for Senior Salary Holders

- 11.1 The Family Absence Regulations (approved by the National Assembly in 2014) are very specific relating to entitlement and only available for elected members of principal councils. Absence for reasons of ill-health is not included.
- 11.2 Instances have been raised with the Panel of senior salary holders on long term sickness and the perceived unfairness in comparison with the arrangements for family absence. In consequence, councils are faced with the dilemma of:
- Operating without the individual member but still paying them the senior salary.
 - Replacing the member who therefore loses the senior salary (but retains the basic salary).
- 11.3 The Panel's Framework provides specific arrangements for long term sickness as set out below:
- a) Long term sickness is defined as certified absences in excess of 4 weeks.
 - b) The maximum length of sickness absence within these proposals is 26 weeks or until the individual's term of office ends, whichever is sooner (but if reappointed any remaining balance of the 26 weeks will be included).
 - c) Within these parameters a senior salary holder on long term sickness can, if the authority decides continue to receive remuneration for the post held.
 - d) It is a decision of the authority whether to make a substitute appointment but the substitute will be eligible to be paid the senior salary appropriate to the post.
 - e) If the paid substitution results in the authority exceeding the maximum number of senior salaries payable for that authority as set out in the Annual Report, an addition will be allowed for the duration of the substitution. (However this would not apply to Merthyr Tydfil or the Isle of Anglesey councils if it would result in more than 50% of the membership receiving a senior salary. It would also not apply in respect of a council executive member if it would result in the cabinet exceeding 10 posts - the statutory maximum).
 - f) When an authority agrees a paid substitution the Panel must be informed within 14 days of the decision of the details including the specific post and the estimated length of the substitution. The authority's Schedule of Remuneration must be amended accordingly.
 - g) It does not apply to elected members of principal councils who are not senior post holders as they continue to receive basic salary for at least

six months irrespective of attendance and any extension beyond this timescale is a matter for the authority.

- 11.4 This arrangement applies to members of principal councils, National Park Authorities and Fire and Rescue Authorities who are senior salary holders, including Welsh Government appointed members, but does not apply to co-opted members.

Note:

The Family Absence Regulations apply to elected members in cases of maternity, new born, adoption and parental absences from official business. They do not apply to Welsh Government appointed members of National Park Authorities.

12. Reimbursement of Travel and Subsistence Costs when on Official Business

- 12.1 This section applies to members of principal authorities, National Park Authorities, Fire and Rescue Authorities and to co-opted members of these authorities. (Similar provision for Community and Town Councils is contained in section 13 as there is a different approach to such members, principally that the provision is permissive.)
- 12.2 Members may claim reimbursement for travel and subsistence (meals and accommodation) costs where these have arisen as a result of undertaking official duties. Expenses reimbursed to members by their local authority are exempt from Income Tax and employee NICs.
- 12.3 The Panel is aware that in some instances members with disabilities have been reluctant to claim legitimate travel expenses because of an adverse response following the publication of their travel costs. As an alternative, travel arrangements could be made directly by the authority in such circumstances.
- 12.4 The Panel has determined there will be no change to mileage rates which members are entitled to claim. All authorities may only reimburse travel costs for their members undertaking official business within and/or outside the authority's boundaries at the current HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) rates which are:

Reimbursement of mileage costs

45p per mile	Up to 10,000 miles in a year by car
25p per mile	Over 10,000 miles in a year by car
5p per mile	Per passenger carried on authority business
24p per mile	Motor cycles
20p per mile	Bicycles

- 12.5 Where a member who is on official business is driven by a third party (not a member or officer of that authority), the member can claim mileage at the prescribed rates plus any parking or toll fees provided the authority is satisfied that the member has incurred these costs.

Reimbursement of other travel costs

- 12.6 All other claims for travel must only be reimbursed on production of receipts showing the actual cost and will be subject to any requirement or further limitation that an authority may determine. Members should always be mindful of choosing the most cost effective method of travel.

Reimbursement of subsistence costs

£28 per day	Day allowance for meals, including breakfast, where not provided in the overnight charge
£200 per night	London
£95 per night	Elsewhere
£30 per night	Staying with friends and/or family

- 12.7 These rates are in line with Welsh Government rates. Recommended practice is that overnight accommodation should usually be reserved and paid for on behalf of members by the relevant authority, in which case an authority may set its own reasonable limits and the limits which apply when an individual member claims in arrears for overnight accommodation costs do not then apply.
- 12.8 All authorities must continue to reimburse subsistence expenses for their members up to the maximum rates set out above on the basis of receipted claims except for occasions when members stay with friends and/or family.
- 12.9 There may be instances where an authority has determined that travel costs within its boundaries are payable and require a journey to be repeated on consecutive days. Where it is reasonable and cost effective to reimburse overnight accommodation costs, instead of repeated daily mileage costs, then it is permissible to do so.
- 12.10 It is not necessary to allocate the maximum daily rate (£28 per day) between different meals as the maximum daily rate reimbursable covers a 24 hour period and can be claimed for any meal if relevant, provided such a claim is accompanied by receipts.

Car Parking for Members

Several councils have specific arrangements for their members in respect of car parking. The Panel considers that it is a matter for individual councils to determine arrangements including payments to and from members providing that it is a decision made formally by the council.

13. Payments to Members of Community and Town Councils

- 13.1 The Panel recognises a wide variation in geography, scope and scale across the 735 community and town councils in Wales, from small community councils with relatively minimal expenditure and few meetings to large town councils with significant assets and responsibilities.
- 13.2 Since producing its last report, the Panel has so far met with 154 Councillors and Clerks representing 175 community and town councils in 7 meetings it held across Wales. The Panel also gave evidence to the Welsh Government's review of Community and Town Councils. The discussions re-confirmed the widely held view that the roles individual councils undertake varied significantly and that in accordance with this wide variation, the responsibilities and accountabilities of councillors must also vary. Councillors managing income or expenditure of £1m and those delivering significant services, including some that might have been delegated from principal councils, are operating in a much more complex environment than a council with an annual budget of less than £30,000.
- 13.3 In its last Annual Report the Panel formed 3 groups of community and town councils to reflect these differences based on the level of income *or* expenditure, whichever is the highest, in the previous financial year. These remain unchanged as set out in Table 8.

Table 8: Community and Town Council Groupings

Community and Town Council Group	Income or Expenditure in 2018-19 of:
A	£200,000 and above
B	£30,000 - £199,999
C	Below £30,000

- 13.4 The discussions held with community and town councils during 2018 raised a number of queries in respect of which the following paragraphs provide further clarification.
- 13.5 In order to act and carry out duties as a member of a community or town council all persons are required to make a formal declaration of acceptance of office. Following this declaration, members of community or town councils are then holders of elected office and occupy a role that is part of the Welsh local government structure. It is important to note that a person who follows this path is in a different position to those in other forms of activity, for example such as volunteering or charitable work, typically governed by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.
- 13.6 Under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011, community and town councils are relevant authorities for the purpose of remuneration.

- 13.7 Consequently, individuals who have accepted office as a member of a community or town council are entitled to receive payments as determined by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales. It is the duty of the proper officer of a council (usually the Council Clerk) to make arrangements for correct payments to be made to all individuals entitled to receive them.
- 13.8 Members should receive monies to which they are properly entitled as a matter of course. There must be no requirement for individuals to 'opt in' to receive payments.
- 13.9 An individual may decline to receive part, or all, of the payments if they so wish. This must be done in writing and is an individual matter. A community or town council member wishing to decline payments must themselves write to their proper officer to do so to thereby prevent payments being made to themselves alone.
- 13.10 The Panel wants any member who has personal costs, support needs or caring responsibilities to be able to fulfil their role. To reflect this, the Panel is mandating payment of a contribution to costs and expenses for members of all community and town councils as set out in Determination 37. The Panel is also mandating reimbursement of cost of care for all members of community and town councils as set out in Determination 43.
- 13.11 In each community and town council the proper officer should ensure there is ready access to proper reimbursements of costs of care to enable those eligible for reimbursement to participate in the democratic process. It is inappropriate for councils or councillors to create a climate, or otherwise pressurise others, in order to prevent persons accessing any monies to which they are entitled that may support them to participate in local democracy.
- 13.12 Members in receipt of a Band 1 or Band 2 senior salary from a principal council cannot receive any payment from any community or town council, other than travel and subsistence expenses and reimbursement of costs of care. However, this does not preclude them from holding a senior role.
- 13.13 Table 9 sets out the actions that community and town councils must take annually in respect of each determination that follows.

Payments towards costs and expenses

- 13.14 The Panel is mandating a payment of £150 as a contribution to costs and expenses for members of all community and town councils. Previously this was not mandated for all groups, but feedback expressed disappointment in this and the Panel felt that any member who wanted to receive this payment should be entitled to do so.

- 13.15 For the avoidance of doubt this determination now includes councils in Group C as well as Groups A and B. Receipts are not required for these payments.

Determination 37: All community and town councils must make available a payment to each of their members of £150 per year as a contribution to costs and expenses.

Senior roles

- 13.16 The Panel recognises that specific member roles especially within the larger community and town councils, for example a committee chair, will involve greater responsibility. It is also likely that larger councils will have a greater number of committees, reflecting its level of activity. The Panel has therefore determined that councils in Group A must make available a payment for a minimum of one senior role and a maximum of five senior roles. Councils in Groups B and C can pay up to five responsibility payments for specified roles. A Councillor can only have one payment of £500 regardless of how many senior roles they hold within their Council.

Determination 38: Community and town councils in Group A must make available an annual payment of £500 each to a minimum of 1 and a maximum of 5 members in recognition of specific responsibilities. This is in addition to the £150 payment for costs and expenses.

Determination 39: Community and town councils in Groups B or C can make an annual payment of £500 each to up to 5 members in recognition of specific responsibilities. This is in addition to the £150 payment for costs and expenses.

Where a person is a member of more than one town or community council, they are eligible to receive the £150 and, if appropriate, £500 from each council of which they are a member.

Reimbursement of travel costs and subsistence costs

- 13.17 The Panel recognises there can be significant travel and subsistence costs associated with the work of community and town council members, especially where the council area is geographically large and/or when engaging in duties outside this area. Each council has an option to pay travel and subsistence costs and where it does the following determinations apply.

Determination 40: Community and town councils can make payments to each of their members in respect of travel costs for attending approved duties.⁸ Such payments must be the actual costs of travel by public transport or the HMRC mileage allowances as below:

- 45p per mile up to 10,000 miles in the year.
- 25p per mile over 10,000 miles.
- 5p per mile per passenger carried on authority business.
- 24p per mile for private motor cycles.
- 20p per mile for bicycles.

Determination 41: If a community or town council resolves that a particular duty requires an overnight stay, it can authorise reimbursement of subsistence expenses to its members at the maximum rates set out below on the basis of receipted claims:

- £28 per 24-hour period allowance for meals, including breakfast where not provided.
- £200 – London overnight.
- £95 – elsewhere overnight.
- £30 – staying with friends and/or family overnight.

Compensation for financial loss

13.18 The Panel has retained the facility which councils may pay as compensation to their members where they suffer financial loss when attending approved duties. This figure had not been adjusted for a number of years and therefore the Panel has updated it in line with the most recent *Office for National Statistics Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings - median salary for full time employees in Wales and Average Actual Weekly Hours of Work for full-time workers (seasonally adjusted)*. Members must be able to demonstrate that the financial loss has actually been incurred. Each council has an option to pay compensation for financial loss and where it does the following determination applies.

⁸ Where a member who is on official business is driven by a third party (not a member or officer of that authority), the member can claim mileage at the prescribed rates plus any parking or toll fees provided the authority is satisfied that the member has incurred these costs.

Determination 42: Community and town councils can pay financial loss compensation to each of their members, where such loss has actually occurred, for attending approved duties as follows:

- Up to £54.00 for each period not exceeding 4 hours
- Up to £108.00 for each period exceeding 4 hours but not exceeding 24 hours

Reimbursement of the costs of care

13.19 The purpose of this is to enable people who have personal support needs and or caring responsibilities to carry out their duties effectively as a member of an authority. The Panel believes that the additional costs of care required to carry out approved duties should not deter people from becoming and remaining a member of an authority or limit their ability to carry out the role.

13.20 The Panel recognises the issues relating to the publication of this legitimate expense. This is reflected in the options for publication as set out in Annex 4. To support current members and to encourage diversity the Panel urges authorities to promote and encourage greater take-up of the reimbursement of costs of care.

Determination 43: All community and town councils must provide for the reimbursement of necessary costs for the care of dependent children and adults (provided by informal or formal carers) and for personal assistance needs up to a maximum of £403 per month. Reimbursement must be for the additional costs incurred by members in order for them to carry out their approved duties. Reimbursement shall only be made on production of receipts from the carer.

Civic Head / Deputy Civic Head

13.21 Civic heads are senior posts within community and town councils. In addition to chairing major meetings the civic head is the 'ambassador' representing the council to a variety of institutions and organisations. The Panel requires that members should not have to pay for the cost of the support that is needed to carry out these duties. This requirement also applies in respect of deputy civic heads.

13.22 For the avoidance of doubt, support in respect of, for example, transport (physical transport or mileage costs), secretarial support, charitable giving (purchasing tickets, making donations or buying raffle tickets) and clothing are not matters of personal remuneration for the individual holding the senior post.

13.23 These support costs relate to the tasks and duties of the roles and individual councils will make funding decisions in relation to such support, as they deem

appropriate for the levels of civic leadership they have in place.

- 13.24 Recognising that some mayors and chairs of community and town councils and their deputies are very active during their year of office, the Panel has determined that community and town councils can make a payment to the individuals holding these roles.
- 13.25 This payment is to be used or retained at the individual's discretion and does not relate to the support costs set out about above.
- 13.26 The Panel has determined that the maximum amount that can be paid to a chair/mayor of a community or town council is £1,500. The maximum amount that can be paid to a deputy mayor/chair is £500.

Determination 44: Community and town councils can provide a Civic Head payment to the mayor/chair of the council up to a maximum of £1,500. This is in addition to the £150 payment for costs and expenses and the £500 senior salary if these are claimed.

Determination 45: Community and town councils can provide a Deputy Civic Head payment to the deputy mayor/deputy chair of the council up to a maximum of £500. This is in addition to the £150 payment for costs and expenses and the £500 senior salary if these are claimed.

Making Payments to members

- 13.27 Table 9 sets out each of the above Determinations and if a decision is required by the council in respect of each one.
- 13.28 In respect of the mandated payments where no decision is required by a council, members should receive monies to which they are properly entitled as a matter of course.
- 13.29 Where a decision is required by the council, this should be done at the first meeting following receipt of the Annual Report.
- 13.30 A council can adopt any, or all, of the non-mandated determinations but if it does make such a decision, it must apply to all its members.
- 13.31 When payments take effect from is set out in paragraphs 13.33 to 13.36 below.
- 13.32 On receipt of the draft Annual Report the previous autumn, councils should consider the determinations for the next financial year and use this to inform budget plans.

Table 9

Determination Number	Is a decision required by council?
37 - All community and town councils must make available a payment to each of their members of £150 per year for costs incurred in respect of telephone usage, information technology, consumables etc.	No - the payment of £150 is mandated for every member unless they advise the appropriate officer that they do not want to take it in writing
38 – Community and town councils in Group A must make available an annual payment of £500 each to a minimum of 1 and a maximum of 5 members in recognition of specific responsibilities. This is in addition to the £150 payment for costs and expenses	Yes – a council must decide how many payments of £500 it will make – to between 1 and 5 members unless they advise the appropriate officer in writing that they do not want to take it
39 – Community and town councils in Groups B or C can make an annual payment of £500 each to up to 5 members in recognition of specific responsibilities. This is in addition to the £150 payment for costs and expenses	Yes – the payment of £500 is optional for up to 5 members
40 – Community and town councils can make payments to each of their	Yes – the payment of travel costs is optional

members in respect of travel costs for attending approved duties	
41 – If a community or town council resolves that a particular duty requires an overnight stay, it can authorise reimbursement of subsistence expenses to its members	Yes – the payment of overnight subsistence expenses is optional
42 – Community and town councils can pay financial loss compensation to each of their members, where such loss has actually occurred, for attending approved duties	Yes – the payment of financial loss allowance is optional
43 – All community and town councils must provide for the reimbursement of necessary costs for the care of dependent children and adults (provided by informal or formal carers) and for personal assistance needs up to a maximum of £403 per month	No - the payment is mandated for every member if they are eligible to claim, and wish to do so
44 – Community and town councils can provide a Civic Head payment to the mayor/chair of the council up to a maximum of £1,500	Yes – the payment to a Civic Head is optional
45 – Community and town councils can provide a Deputy Civic Head payment to the deputy mayor/deputy chair of the council up to a maximum amount of £500	Yes – the payment to a Deputy Civic Head is optional

13.33 All members should be paid the £150 as set out in Determination 37 from the start of the municipal year (unless they are elected later in the municipal year).

13.34 Other amounts payable to members in recognition of specific responsibilities or as a civic head or deputy civic head as set out in Determinations 38,39, 44 and 45 are payable from the date when the member takes up the role during the municipal year.

13.35 When the payment is actually made to the member, how many payments the total amount payable is broken down into, and whether and how to recover any payments made to a member who leaves their role during the municipal year, is a matter for each council to decide.

13.36 Payments in respect of Determinations 40, 41, 42 and 43 are payable when the activity they relate to has taken place.

- 13.37 Members in receipt of a Band 1 or Band 2 senior salary from a principal council (that is Leader, Deputy Leader or Executive Member) cannot receive any payment from any community or town council, other than travel and subsistence expenses and reimbursement of costs of care. However, this does not preclude them from holding a senior role.
- 13.38 As stated in paragraph 13.9, any individual member may make a personal decision to elect to forgo part or all of the entitlement to any of these payments by giving notice in writing to the proper officer of the council.

Publicity requirements

- 13.39 There is a requirement on community and town councils to publish details of all payments made to individual members in an annual Statement of Payments for each financial year. This information must be published on council noticeboards and/or websites (with easy access) and provided to the Panel by email or by post no later than 30 September following the end of the previous financial year. The Panel draws attention to the requirements stipulated at Annex 4. The Panel is concerned that a significant number of councils are in breach of this requirement.

14. Compliance with Panel Requirements

The Panel's remit under the Measure

- 14.1 Section 153 of the Measure empowers the Panel to require a relevant authority⁹ to comply with the requirements imposed on it by an Annual Report of the Panel and further enables the Panel to monitor the compliance of relevant authorities with the Panel's determinations.
- 14.2 A relevant authority must implement the Panel's determinations in this report from the date of its annual meeting or a date specified within the Annual Report.

Monitoring compliance

- 14.3 The Panel will monitor the compliance with the determinations in this Annual Report by relevant authorities against the following requirements:
- (i) A relevant authority must maintain an annual **Schedule of Member Remuneration** (IRPW Regulations 4 and 5). Guidance at Annex 3 sets out the content which must be included in the Schedule.
 - (ii) A relevant authority must make arrangements for the Schedule's publication within the authority area (IRPW Regulation 46) and send the Schedule to the Panel as soon as practicable and not later than 31 July in the year to which it applies. Annex 4 provides further details of the publicity requirements.
 - (iii) Any amendments to the Schedule made during the year must be conveyed to the Panel as soon as possible after the amendment is made.

Note: The above requirements do not apply to Community and town councils at this time. The following applies to all authorities including Community and town councils.

- (iv) A relevant authority must make arrangements for publication within the authority area of the total sum paid by it in the previous financial year to each member and co-opted member in respect of salary (basic, senior and civic), allowances, fees and reimbursements in a Statement of Payments (in accordance with Annex 4 that sets out the content that must be included in the Publicity Requirements). This must be published as soon as practicable and no later than 30 September following the end of the previous financial year- and must be submitted to the Panel no later than that date.

⁹ Interpretation of "Relevant Authority" provided in the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (IRPW) Regulations, Part 1, 'Interpretation'.

15. Salaries of Heads of Paid Service of Principal Councils and Fire and Rescue Authorities and Chief Officers of Principal Councils

- 15.1 Section 63 of the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013 amended the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 by inserting section 143A. This enables the Panel to take a view on anything in the Pay Policy Statements of these authorities that relates to the salary of the head of paid service (normally the chief executive or chief fire officer). Section 39 of the Local Government (Wales) Act 2015 further amended the Measure extending this function to include Chief Officers of Principal Councils.
- 15.2 The Welsh Government issued amended guidance to the Panel which can be found at <http://gov.wales/docs/dsllg/publications/localgov/160212-irp-guide-salaries-en-v2.pdf>. This sets the basis on which the Panel will carry out the function contained in the legislation.
- 15.3 In essence the functions of the Panel and the requirements on authorities established by the legislation and the subsequent guidance are:
- a) If a principal council intends to change the salary of the head of paid service or chief officer, or if a fire and rescue authority intends to change the salary of its head of paid service it must consult the Panel unless the change is in keeping with changes applied to other officers of that authority (whether the change is an increase or decrease). 'Salary' includes payments under a contract for services as well as payments of salary under an employment contract.
 - b) The authority must have regard to the recommendation(s) of the Panel when reaching its decision.
 - c) The Panel may seek any information that it considers necessary to reach a conclusion and produce a recommendation. The authority is obliged to provide the information sought by the Panel.
 - d) The Panel may publish any recommendation that it makes. It is the intention that, in the interests of transparency, it will normally do so.
 - e) The Panel's recommendation(s) could indicate:
 - approval of the authority's proposal
 - express concerns about the proposal
 - recommend variations to the proposal
- as long as these comply with any guidance issued by the Welsh Government.
- 15.4 The Panel also has a general power to review the Pay Policy Statements of authorities so far as they relate to the heads of paid service (and chief officers

until 2020).

- 15.5 It is important to note the Panel will not decide the amount an individual head of paid service will receive.
- 15.6 The Panel is very aware that this additional function is significantly different from its statutory responsibilities in relation to members' remuneration. However, it will ensure that it undertakes this role with clarity and openness, taking into account all the relevant factors in respect of specific individual cases. Authorities are encouraged to consult the Panel at an early stage in their decision making on such matters. This will enable the Panel to respond in a timely manner.

Pay Policy Statements

- 15.7 Paragraph 3.7 of the guidance to the Panel from the Welsh Government states that "The legislation does not restrict the Panel to a reactive role". It allows the Panel to use its power to make recommendations relating to provisions within local authorities Pay Policy Statements. The Panel has considered this in the context of its resources and has decided that these limit the time that could be applied to this open power. So it will examine changes from year to year of the salaries of Chief Executives and Chief Officers to ensure that these comply with the requirements of the legislation.



19 February 2018

Mr Darren Mepham
Chief Executive
Bridgend County Borough Council

Dear Mr Mepham

Proposed Senior Management Structure

I agreed with Kelly Watson that I would confirm my observations on your proposals that I discussed with her by telephone on Wednesday 14th February.

Your proposed restructure has been approved by Council and the next stage is to seek approval to consult and move to a job evaluation exercise. This is entirely a matter for the Council and is not within the Panel's remit as determined by the legislation and Welsh Government guidance.

However, following the job evaluation it is the intention to "slot" members of staff into posts within the new structure. If this results in a change in salary (increase or decrease) for any individual this would be a matter for our consideration. I asked Kelly Watson the intention in respect of the post of Deputy Chief Executive and was advised that this role would be added to the responsibilities of one of the corporate directors. I consider that this would be a matter for the Panel.

I hope that this explanation is helpful.

Yours sincerely

John Bader
Chair



Ceri Davies
Head of Human Resources
Pembrokeshire County Council

26 April 2018

Dear Mr Davies

Proposal to change the remuneration of a chief officer

Your letter and accompanying documentation dated 27 February was considered by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales at the meeting on 22 March. All members of the Panel were present and therefore the meeting was quorate.

In respect of the function of the Panel related to the salaries of chief officers the remit and guidance from the Welsh Government allows the Panel to:

- a) Approve the proposal
- b) Express concerns about the proposal
- c) Recommend a variation to the proposal

Having examined the submission from your authority it is the decision of the Panel to approve the proposal as submitted.

Yours sincerely

John Bader
Chair



Rhian Hayden
Head of Financial Services
Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
rhian.hayden@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk
Eich Cyf: RH/KE/IRPW
En Cyf: IRPW Case 21

27 March 2018

Dear Ms Hayden

Application for Additional Specific Senior Salaries

Your submission sent on the 9 and 15 March for two additional senior salaries was considered by the Panel in its meeting on the 22 March.

Having examined the submission from your authority the Panel consider that the nomination of two councillors to Silent Valley Waste Service Ltd (SVWS) as directors and the payment of those directors by the company falls outside the Panel's remit.

This is because SVWS is a separate legal entity and the duty of the directors is directly owed to the company which is an outside body distinct from Blaenau Gwent county borough council. Payment to directors is not within the Panel's remuneration Framework.

SVWS can therefore decide to pay its directors as it chooses.

Yours sincerely

Sinéad O'Toole
Secretariat



Deb Yeates
Rheolwr Tîm, Gweithredu AD
Team Leader, HR Operations
debra.yeates@swansea.gov.uk

17 July 2018

Dear Ms Yeates

Chief Legal Officer – increase of salary

Your email of the 1st June with the enclosed *Report to the Independent Remuneration Panel* and the additional information provided afterwards was considered by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales at its meeting on 13 and 14 June and the 11 July . All the Panel were present in the June meeting and five out of the six were present in the July meeting and therefore the meeting was quorate.

In respect of the function of the Panel related to the salaries of chief officers the remit and guidance from the Welsh Government allows the Panel to:

- a) Approve the proposals
- b) Express concerns about the proposals
- c) Recommend a variation to the proposals

Having examined the submission from your authority, it is the decision of the Panel to approve the proposal to increase the salary of the Chief Legal Officer from a range of £67,633 - £83,240 to a salary range of £83,240 - £93,645

Yours sincerely

John Bader
Chair



Ceri Davies
Head of Human Resources
Pembrokeshire County Council

CC: JoanneP-Davies@pembrokeshire.gov.uk

7 September 2018

Dear Ceri,

Proposal to change the remuneration of a chief officer – Head of ITC

Your letter and accompanying documentation dated 26th July was considered by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales at the meeting on 22nd August. All members of the Panel were present and therefore the meeting was quorate.

In respect of the function of the Panel related to the salaries of chief officers the remit and guidance from the Welsh Government allows the Panel to:

- a) Approve the proposal
- b) Express concerns about the proposal
- c) Recommend a variation to the proposal

The proposal is that the new Head of ITC is recruited on a band 6 salary (£59,376-£63,310) in contrast to the previous salary which was on band 3 (£75,573-£83,133).

Having examined the submission from your authority it is the decision of the Panel to approve the proposal as submitted.

Yours sincerely

John Bader
Chair

Annex 1: The Panel's Determinations for 2019/20

Principal Councils	
1.	Basic salary in 2019/20 for elected members of principal councils shall be £13,868.
2.	The Panel has determined that senior salary levels in 2019/20 for members of principal councils shall be as set out in Table 4.
3.	The Panel has determined that (where paid) a civic head must be paid a Band 3 salary of £22,568 and (where paid) a deputy civic head must be paid a Band 5 salary of £17,568.
4.	The Panel has determined that, where appointed and if remunerated, a presiding member must be paid a Band 3 senior salary of £22,568.
5.	The Panel has determined that the post of deputy presiding member will not be remunerated.
6.	The Panel has determined that each authority, through its Democratic Services Committee, must ensure that all its elected members are given as much support as is necessary to enable them to fulfil their duties effectively. All elected members should be provided with adequate telephone, email and internet facilities giving electronic access to appropriate information.
7.	The Panel has determined that such support should be without cost to the individual member. Deductions must not be made from members' salaries by the respective authority as a contribution towards the cost of support which the authority has decided necessary for the effectiveness and or efficiency of members.
Specific or Additional Senior Salaries	
8.	The Panel has determined to include a provision for specific or additional senior salaries that do not fall within the current Remuneration Framework.
Local Government Pension Scheme	
9.	The entitlement to join the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) shall apply to all eligible elected members of principal councils.
Family Absence	
10.	An elected member is entitled to retain a basic salary when taking family absence under the regulations irrespective of the attendance record immediately preceding the commencement of the family absence.
11.	When a senior salary holder is eligible for family absence, they will continue to receive the salary for the duration of the absence.

12.	It is a matter for the authority to decide whether or not to make a substitute appointment. The elected member substituting for a senior salary holder taking family absence will be eligible to be paid a senior salary, if the authority so decides.
13.	If the paid substitution results in the authority exceeding the maximum number of senior salaries which relates to it, as set out in the Panel's Annual Report, an addition to the maximum will be allowed for the duration of the substitution. However, this will not apply to the Isle of Anglesey or Merthyr Tydfil Councils if it would result in the number of senior salaries exceeding fifty percent of the Council membership. Specific approval of Welsh Ministers is required in such circumstances.
14.	When a Council agrees a paid substitution for family absence, the Panel must be informed, within 14 days of the date of the decision, of the details including the particular post and the duration of the substitution.
15.	The Council's schedule of remuneration must be amended to reflect the implication of the family absence.
National Park Authorities	
16.	The basic salary for NPA ordinary members shall be £3,735.
17.	The senior salary of the chair of an NPA shall be £12,435.
18.	An NPA senior salary can be paid to a Deputy Chair and up to two committee chairs where there is significant and sustained responsibility. This can be paid at either of the following levels to be decided by the authority to reflect the appropriate responsibility: £7,435 or £6,135.
19.	The Panel has determined to include a provision for NPAs to apply for specific or additional senior salaries that do not fall within the current Remuneration Framework.
20.	Members must not receive more than one NPA senior salary.
21.	An NPA senior salary is paid inclusive of the NPA basic salary and must reflect significant and sustained responsibility.
22.	Members of a principal council in receipt of a Band 1 or Band 2 senior salary cannot receive a salary from any NPA to which they have been appointed.
Fire and Rescue Authorities	
23.	The basic salary for FRA ordinary members shall be £1,780.
24.	The senior salary of the chair of an FRA shall be £10,480.
25.	An FRA senior salary can be paid to the deputy chair and up to two chairs of committees where there is significant and sustained responsibility. This shall be paid at £5,480.

26.	The Panel has determined to include a provision for FRAs to apply for specific or additional senior salaries that do not fall within the current Remuneration Framework.
27.	Members must not receive more than one FRA senior salary.
28.	An FRA senior salary is paid inclusive of the FRA basic salary and must reflect significant and sustained responsibility.
29.	Members of a principal council in receipt of a Band 1 or Band 2 senior salary cannot receive a salary from any FRA to which they have been nominated.
Co-opted Members	
30.	Principal councils, NPAs and FRAs must pay the fees to co-opted members (who have voting rights) as set out in Table 7.
31.	Reasonable time for pre meeting preparation is to be included in claims made by co-opted members the extent of which can be determined by the appropriate officer in advance of the meeting.
32.	Travelling time to and from the place of the meeting is to be included in the claims for payments made by co-opted members (up to the maximum of the daily rate).
33.	The appropriate officer within the authority can determine in advance whether a meeting is programmed for a full day and the fee will be paid on the basis of this determination even if the meeting finishes before four hours has elapsed.
34.	Fees must be paid for meetings and other activities including other committees and working groups (including task and finish groups), pre-meetings with officers, training and attendance at conferences or any other formal meeting to which co-opted members are requested to attend.
35.	The Panel has determined that each authority, through its Democratic Services Committee or other appropriate committee, must ensure that all voting co-opted members are given as much support as is necessary to enable them to fulfil their duties effectively. Such support should be without cost to the individual member.
Reimbursement of Costs of Care	
36.	All authorities must provide for the reimbursement of necessary costs for the care of dependent children and adults (provided by informal or formal carers) and for personal assistance needs up to a maximum of £403 per month. Reimbursement must be for the additional costs incurred by members in order for them to carry out their approved duties. Reimbursement shall only be made on production of receipts from the carer.

Community and Town Councils	
37.	All Community and Town councils must make available a payment to each of their members of £150 per year as a contribution to costs and expenses.
38.	Community and Town councils in Group A must make available an annual payment of £500 each to a minimum of 1 and a maximum of 5 members in recognition of specific responsibilities. This is in addition to the £150 payment for costs and expenses.
39.	Community and Town councils in Groups B or C can make an annual payment of £500 each to up to 5 members in recognition of specific responsibilities. This is in addition to the £150 payment for costs and expenses.
40.	Community and Town councils can make payments to each of their members in respect of travel costs for attending approved duties. ¹⁰ Such payments must be the actual costs of travel by public transport or the HMRC mileage allowances as below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 45p per mile up to 10,000 miles in the year. • 25p per mile over 10,000 miles. • 5p per mile per passenger carried on authority business. • 24p per mile for private motor cycles. • 20p per mile for bicycles.
41.	If a Community or Town council resolves that a particular duty requires an overnight stay, it can authorise reimbursement of subsistence expenses to its members at the maximum rates set out below on the basis of receipted claims: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £28 per 24-hour period allowance for meals, including breakfast where not provided. • £200 – London overnight. • £95 – elsewhere overnight. • £30 – staying with friends and/or family overnight.
42.	Community and Town councils can pay financial loss compensation to each of their members, where such loss has actually occurred, for attending approved duties as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to £54.00 for each period not exceeding 4 hours. • Up to £108.00 for each period exceeding 4 hours but not exceeding 24 hours.

43.	All Community and Town councils must provide for the reimbursement of necessary costs for the care of dependent children and adults (provided by informal or formal carers) and for personal assistance needs up to a maximum of £403 per month. Reimbursement must be for the additional costs incurred by members in order for them to carry out their approved duties. Reimbursement shall only be made on production of receipts from the carer.
44.	Community and Town councils can provide a Civic Head payment to the mayor/chair of the council up to a maximum of £1,500. This is in addition to the £150 payment for costs and expenses and the £500 senior salary if these are claimed.
45.	Community and Town councils can provide a Deputy Civic Head payment to the deputy mayor/deputy chair of the council up to a maximum of £500. This is in addition to the £150 payment for costs and expenses and the £500 senior salary if these are claimed.

¹⁰ Where a member who is on official business is driven by a third party (not a member or officer of that authority), the member can claim mileage at the prescribed rates plus any parking or toll fees provided the authority is satisfied that the member has incurred these costs.

Annex 2: Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (IRPW) Regulations:

- a) for the remuneration of members and co-opted members of relevant authorities**
- b) for functions relating to the salaries of Heads of Paid Service of Principal Councils and Fire and Rescue Authorities**
- c) Chief officers of Principal Councils**

Introduction

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

Sections 62 to 67 of the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013 amends sections 142, 143, 144, 147, 148 and 151 of the Measure and confers additional powers on the Panel.

The powers contained in part 8 and schedules 2 and 3 of the Measure (as amended) have replaced the following Statutory Instruments:

- The Local Authorities (Allowances for Members of County and County Borough Councils and National Park Authorities) (Wales) Regulations 2002 (No. 1895 (W.196)).
- The Local Authorities (Allowances for Members of Fire Authorities) (Wales) Regulations 2004 (No. 2555 (W.227)).
- The Local Authorities (Allowances for Members) (Wales) Regulations 2007 (No.1086 (W.115)).

The Measure also has replaced the sections of the Local Government Act 1972, the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government Act 2000 relating to payments to councillors in Wales.

Allowances for members of community and town councils are set out in Part 5 of these Regulations. The Local Authorities (Allowances for Members of Community Councils) (Wales) Regulations 2003 (No. 895(W.115)) were revoked from 1st April 2013.

Part 1

General

1. a. The short title of these Regulations is: "IRPW Regulations".

- b. The IRPW Regulations came into force on 1 April 2012. The implementation date for each of the relevant authorities is set out in the Annual Report or Supplementary Report of the Panel.
- c. Authorities are required to produce a schedule of payments to members and co-opted members no later than the 31st July each year, for submission to the Panel and publication (see paragraph 46).

Interpretation

2. In the IRPW Regulations:

- “The 1972 Act” means the Local Government Act 1972.
- “The 2000 Act” means the Local Government Act 2000.
- “The 2013 Act” means the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013.
- “Allowance” means the actual or maximum amount which may be reimbursed to members and co-opted members of a relevant authority for expenses necessarily incurred when carrying out the official business of the relevant authority.
- “Annual report” means a report produced by the Panel in accordance with section 145 of the Measure.
- “Approved duty” in relation to community and town councils has the meaning as set out in Part 5 of these Regulations.
- “Attendance Allowance” in relation to community or town councils has the meaning set out in Part 5 of these Regulations.
- “Authority” means a relevant authority in Wales as defined in Section 144(2) of the Measure, and includes a local authority (county or county borough council), a national park authority and a Welsh fire and rescue authority, a community or town council.
- “Basic Salary” has the same meaning as set out in paragraph 6 of these Regulations, and may be qualified as “LA Basic Salary” to refer to the basic salary of a member of a principal council; “NPA Basic Salary” to refer to the basic salary of a member of a national park authority; and “FRA Basic Salary” to refer to the basic salary of a member of a Welsh fire and rescue authority.
- “Chief Officer” of a principal authority has the meaning as defined in the Localism Act 2011.
- “Civic Head” is the person elected by the council to carry out the functions of the chair of that council and is designated as mayor or chair.
- “Committee” includes a sub-committee.
- “Community or town council” means in relation to Part 8 of the Measure, a community council as defined in section 33 of the Local Government Act 1972 or a town council in accord with section 245B of the same Act.

- “Consultation draft” means the draft of an Annual or Supplementary report under Section 146 (7) or 147(8) of the Measure, representations on which must be taken into account by the Panel.
- “Constituent authority” – for national park authorities this is a local authority falling within the area of a national park authority; for Welsh fire and rescue authorities it is a local authority falling within the area of a fire and rescue authority.
- “Controlling group” means a political group in a local authority where any of its members form part of the executive.
- “Co-opted Member” has the meaning contained in section 144 (5) of the Measure, that is those with the right to vote on matters within the purview of the committee on which they serve.
- “Co-opted Member fee” has the same meaning as set out in paragraph 19 of these Regulations.
- “Costs of Care” has the same meaning as set out in paragraph 21 of these Regulations.
- “Democratic Services Committee” means the local authority committee established under section 11 of the Measure.
- “Deputy Civic Head” is a person elected by the council to deputise for the mayor or chair of that council.
- “Executive” means the executive of an authority in a form as specified in sections 11(2) to (5) of the 2000 Act, as amended by section 34 of the Measure.
- “Executive arrangements” has the meaning given by section 10(1) of the 2000 Act.
- “Family absence” as defined in Section 142 (2) (b) of the Measure has the meaning given to it by Part 2 of the Measure, and contained in the Regulations relating thereto.
- “Financial Loss Allowance in relation to community or town councils has the meaning as set out in Part 5 of the Regulations.
- “Fire and rescue authority” means an authority constituted by a scheme under section 2 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 or a scheme to which section 4 of that Act applies.
- “Head of paid service” means as designated under section 4(1) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.
- Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee means a committee or sub committee set up by two or more principal councils under the Local Authority (Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committees) (Wales) Regulations 2013.
- “Largest opposition group” means a political group other than a controlling group which has a greater number of members than any other political group in the authority.

- “Local authority” means a county or county borough council.
- “Member” means in respect of a local authority or a community or town council a person who has been elected to serve as a councillor for that authority; for a national park authority means a member appointed by a constituent authority and also a person appointed by Welsh Ministers; for Welsh fire and rescue authorities means a member appointed by a constituent authority.
- “National Park Authority” means a national park authority established under section 63 of the Environment Act 1995.
- “Official business” has the meaning contained in Section 142 (10) of the Measure in relation to the payment of allowances for care, travel and subsistence as reimbursement of expenses necessarily incurred by members and co-opted members of a relevant authority (excluding community and town councils) when:
 - a. Attending a meeting of the authority or any committee of the authority or any body to which the authority makes appointments or nominations or of any committee of such a body.
 - b. Attending a meeting of any association of authorities of which the authority is a member.
 - c. Attending a meeting the holding of which is authorised by the authority or by a committee of the authority or by a joint committee of the authority and one or more other authorities.
 - d. Attending any training or development event approved by the authority or its executive.
 - e. A duty undertaken for the purpose of or in connection with the discharge of the functions of an executive within the meaning of Part 2 of the 2000 Act, as amended.
 - f. A duty undertaken in pursuance of a standing order which requires a member or members to be present when tender documents are opened.
 - g. A duty undertaken in connection with the discharge of any function of the authority to inspect or authorise the inspection of premises.
 - h. A duty undertaken by members of principal councils in connection with constituency or ward responsibilities which arise from the discharge of local authority functions.
 - i. Any other duty approved by the authority, or any duty of class so approved, undertaken for the purpose of, or in connection with, the discharge of the functions of the authority or any of its committees.
- “Other political group” means a political group other than a controlling group or the largest opposition group (if any) which comprises not less than ten per cent of the members of that authority.

- “Overview and Scrutiny Committee” means a committee of the authority which has the powers set out in sections 21(2) and (3) of the 2000 Act, as amended by Part 6 of the Measure.
- “Panel” means the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales as set out in section 141(1) and schedule 2 of the Measure.
- “Pay policy statement” means a statement produced by a relevant authority under section 38 of the Localism Act 2011.
- “Presiding Member” means a member of a principal council who has been designated by that council to carry out functions in relation to the chairing of its meetings and proceedings.
- “Principal council” means a county or county borough council.
- “Proper officer” has the same meaning as in section 270(3) of the 1972 Act.
- “Public body” means a body as defined in section 67(b) of the 2013 Act.
- “Qualifying provision” means a provision that makes a variation to a previous decision of the Panel. (Section 65 (c) of the 2013 Act).
- “Qualifying relevant authority” is an authority within the meaning of section 63 of the 2013 Act, required to produce a pay policy statement.
- “Relevant authority” is set out in Section 144(2) of the Measure (as amended) and in section 64 of the 2013 Act and, for the purposes of these Regulations, includes a local authority/principal council, a community or town council, a national park authority and a Welsh fire and rescue authority.
- “Relevant matters” are as defined in Section 142(2) of the Measure.
- “Schedule” means a list setting out the authority’s decisions in respect of payments to be made during the year (as relating to that authority) to all members and co-opted members of that authority.
- “Senior Salary” has the same meaning as set out in paragraph 11 of these Regulations and may be qualified as “Local Authority/Principal council Senior Salary” to refer to the senior salary of a member of a principal council; “National Park Senior Salary” to refer to the senior salary of a member of a national park authority; or “Fire and Rescue authority Senior Salary” to refer to the senior salary of a member of a Fire and Rescue authority.
- “Sickness absence” means the arrangements as set out in the Annual Report.
- “Supplementary report” has the meaning contained in section 146(4 to 8) of the Measure.
- “Travelling and subsistence allowance” has the same meaning as set out in paragraph 25 of these Regulations.
- “Year” has the following meanings:

“financial year” – the period of twelve months ending 31 March;

“calendar year” – the period of twelve months ending 31 December;

“municipal year” – the year commencing on the date of the annual meeting of the local authority and ending the day before the annual meeting of the following year; for national park authorities and Welsh fire and rescue authorities it is the period of up to twelve months following the annual meeting of the authority.

Part 2: Schedule of member/co-opted member remuneration

Commencement of term of office

3. The term of office of:

- A member of a local authority or community or town council begins 4 days following the election subject to making the declaration of acceptance of that office under section 83(1) of the 1972 Act.
- A councillor member of a national park authority begins on the date on which that member is appointed as such by a constituent authority and the term of office of a Welsh Government appointed member begins on the date of that appointment. The term of office of the chair and deputy chair of the national park authority begins on the date of election by that authority to that office.
- A councillor member of a Welsh fire and rescue authority begins on the date on which that member is appointed as such by a constituent authority and the term of office of the chair and deputy chair of the fire and rescue authority begins on the date of election by that authority to that office.
- A co-opted member of a relevant authority begins on the date of appointment by the relevant authority.

Schedule of member remuneration (the Schedule) (does not apply to community or town councils – see Part 5)

4. An authority must produce annually, a schedule of payments it intends to make to its members and co-opted members. The amount of those payments must accord with the Panel’s determinations made for that year in its Annual or Supplementary Reports. The Schedule must be produced no later than four weeks following the annual meeting of the authority.

Amendment to the Schedule

5. An authority may amend the Schedule at any time during the year (as relating to the authority) provided that such amendments accord with the Panel’s determinations for that year.

Basic salary

6. An authority must provide for the payment of a basic salary, as determined by the Panel in its Annual or Supplementary Reports, to each of its members. The amount of the salary must be the same for each member. For principal councils only, this salary remains payable during a period of family absence.
7. A member may not receive more than one basic salary from a relevant authority, but a member of one relevant authority may receive a further basic salary by being appointed as a member of another relevant authority (except in the case as indicated in paragraph 16).
8. The amount of the basic salary will be set in accordance with Section 142(3) of the Measure and will be one of the following:
 - The amount the authority must pay to a member of the authority.
 - The maximum amount that the authority may pay to a member of the authority.
9. Where the term of office of a member begins or ends other than at the beginning or end of the year (as relating to the authority), the entitlement of that member is to such proportion of the basic salary as the number of days during which the member's term of office subsists during that year bears to the number of days in that year.
10. Where a member is suspended or partially suspended from being a member of an authority (Part 3 of the 2000 Act refers) the part of the basic salary payable to that member in respect of the responsibilities or duties from which that member is suspended or partially suspended must be withheld by the authority (Section 155(1) of the Measure).

Senior salary

11. Subject to paragraphs 12 to 18 an authority can make payments of a senior salary to members that it has given specific responsibilities. Such payments must accord with the Panel's determination for the year (as relating to the authority) that the payments are made and must be set out in the Schedule of that authority. For principal councils only, a senior salary will remain payable during the family absence of the office holder.
12. The Panel will prescribe in its Annual or Supplementary Reports the following:
 - The categories of members eligible for the payment of a senior salary which may not be the same for all authorities or categories of authorities.
 - The discretion available to authorities in relation to the payment of senior salaries which may not be the same for all authorities or categories of authorities.
13. The amount of the senior salaries payable will be in accordance with section 142(3) of the Measure and specify:

- The amount that a relevant authority must pay to a member of the authority.
 - The maximum amount that a relevant authority may pay to a member of the authority.
14. The Senior Salary will comprise an amalgam of the basic salary and an additional amount for the relevant specific responsibility determined by the Panel in its Annual or Supplementary Reports. This may not be the same for all authorities or categories of authorities.
 15. The Panel in its Annual or Supplementary Reports will determine either the maximum proportion of its membership or the total number of members that an authority can pay as senior salaries. The percentage may not exceed fifty percent without the express approval of Welsh Ministers (Section 142(5) of the Measure). For principal councils only, the maximum proportion or number may be exceeded to include payment of a senior salary to an additional member who is appointed to provide temporary cover for the family absence of a senior salary office holder (subject to the 50% limit).
 - 15(a). For principal councils, Fire and Rescue Authorities and National Park Authorities the maximum proportion or number may be exceeded to include the payment of a senior salary to an additional member who is appointed to provide temporary cover for the sickness absence of a senior salary holder as determined in the Annual Report or a Supplementary Report.
 - 15(b). Payments to chairs of Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committees or Sub Committees are additional to the maximum proportion of its membership that an authority can pay as senior salaries subject to the overall maximum of fifty percent as contained in Section 142(5) of the Measure. The Panel will determine the amounts of such payments in an Annual or Supplementary Report.
 16. An authority must not pay more than one senior salary to any member. A principal council member in receipt of a senior salary as leader or executive member of a local authority (determined as full-time by the Panel) may not receive a second salary as a member appointed to serve on a national park authority or a Welsh fire and rescue authority.
 - 16(a). Paragraph 16 does not apply to payments made to a chair of a Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee or Sub Committee who is in receipt of a senior salary for a role that is not classified as full time equivalent. It continues to apply to leaders or members of the executive.
 17. Where a member does not have, throughout the year specific responsibilities that allow entitlement to a senior salary, that member's payment is to be such proportion of the salary as the number of days during which that member has such special responsibility bears to the number of days in that year.
 18. Where a member is suspended or partially suspended from being a member of the authority (Part 3 of the 2000 Act refers) the authority must not make

payments of the member's senior salary for the duration of the suspension (Section 155(1) of the Measure). If the partial suspension relates only to the specific responsibility element of the payment, the member may retain the basic salary.

Co-opted member payment

19. A relevant authority must provide for the payment of a fee to a co-opted member as determined by the Panel in its Annual or Supplementary Reports. In relation to this regulation 'co-opted member' means a member as determined in Section 144(5) of the Measure and set out in paragraph 2 of these Regulations.
20. Where a co-opted member is suspended or partially suspended from an authority (Part 3 of the 2000 Act refers) the authority must not make payment of a co-opted member fee for the duration of the suspension (Section 155(1) of the Measure).

Allowances

Costs of Care

21. Authorities must provide for the payment to members and co-opted members of an authority the reimbursement in respect of such expenses of arranging the care of children or dependants or for the individual member as are necessarily incurred in carrying out official business as a member or co-opted member of that authority. Payments under this paragraph must not be made:
 - In respect of any child over the age of fifteen years or dependant unless the member/co-opted member satisfies the authority that the child or dependant required supervision which has caused the member to incur expenses that were necessary in respect of the care of that child or dependant in the carrying out of the duties of a member or co-opted member.
 - To more than one member/co-opted member of the authority in relation to the care of the same child or dependant.
 - Of more than one reimbursement for care to a member or co-opted member of the authority who is unable to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the authority that the member/co-opted member has to make separate arrangements for the care of different children or dependants.
22. The maximum amount of the cost of care payable by an authority is to be determined by the Panel in its Annual or Supplementary Reports.
23. Where a member/co-opted member is suspended or partially suspended from being a member or co-opted member of the authority (Part 3 of the 2000 Act refers) the part of the reimbursement of the cost of care payable to that member/co-opted member in receipt of the responsibilities or duties from

which that member/co-opted member is suspended or partially suspended must be withheld by the authority (Section 155(1) of the Measure).

24. An authority's Schedule must stipulate the maximum amount of the reimbursement of costs of care payable each month and its arrangements for making claims, taking full account of the Panel's determinations in this respect.

Travel and subsistence allowances

25. Subject to paragraphs 26 and 27 below a member or co-opted member is entitled to receive payments from the authority by way of travelling and subsistence allowances at rates determined by the Panel in its Annual or Supplementary Reports. Such allowances are in respect of expenditure incurred by a member or co-opted member in the performance of the official business of the authority.

(Paragraphs 26 & 27 apply only to principal councils)

26. Payment of a subsistence allowance to a local authority member for the performance of official business within the boundaries of a county or county borough where s/he is a member should only be made when the authority is satisfied that it can be justified on economic grounds. This does not apply in respect of co-opted members of a local authority who live outside that authority.
27. A local authority may make provision, subject to any limitations it thinks fit, for members to claim mileage expenses for official business in connection with constituency or ward responsibilities where they arise out of the discharge of the functions of the county or county borough.
28. Where a member or co-opted member is suspended or partially suspended from being a member or co-opted member of the authority (Part 3 of the 2000 Act refers), travelling and subsistence allowances payable to that member/co-opted member in respect of the responsibilities or duties from which that member is suspended or partially suspended must be withheld by the authority (Section 155(1) of the Measure).

Part 3: Further provisions

Pensions

29. Under Section 143 of the Measure, the Panel may make determinations in respect of pension arrangements for local authority members in its Annual or Supplementary Reports. Such determinations may:
 - Describe the description of members for whom a local authority will be required to pay a pension.

- Describe the relevant matters in respect of which a local authority will be required to pay a pension.
- Make different decisions for different principal councils.

Allowances to support the function of a local authority member

30. A local authority must provide for the requirements of a member to undertake their role and responsibilities more effectively. The way in which this support should be provided is determined by the Panel in its Annual or Supplementary Reports.

Payment of expenses for official and courtesy visits

31. The arrangements contained in Section 176 of the Local Government Act 1972 will continue to apply but no payment may be made to a person under that arrangement when a payment has been made to that person pursuant to any payment made under these Regulations.

Arrangements in relation to family absence

32. Part 2 of the Measure sets out the rights of local authority members in relation to family absence. The Panel will set out its determinations and the administrative arrangements in relation to the payment of salaries and allowances by principal councils in this respect in its Annual or Supplementary Reports.

Sickness Absence

- 32(a) Arrangements in respect of the long term sickness absence of senior salary holders of principal authorities, Fire and Rescue Authorities and National Park Authorities will be as set out in the Panel's Annual Report or Supplementary Report.

Part 4: Salaries, allowances or fees

Repayment of salaries, allowances or fees

33. An authority must require that such part of a salary, allowance or fee be repaid where payment has already been made in respect of any period during which the member or co-opted member concerned:
- is suspended or partially suspended from that member's/co-opted member's duties or responsibilities in accordance with Part 3 of the 2000 Act or Regulations made under that Act.
 - ceases to be a member or co-opted member of the authority.

- or in any way is not entitled to receive a salary, allowance or fee in respect of that period.

Forgoing salaries, allowances or fees

34. Under Section 154 of the Measure, any member or co-opted member may by notice in writing to the proper officer of the authority elect to forgo any part of their entitlement to a salary, allowance or fee under the determination of the Panel for that particular year (as relating to the authority).

Part 5: Specific provisions relating to community and town councils (“the council”)

Interpretation

35. For the purposes of this Part the term member means both an elected member and a co-opted member.

Allowances

36. Allowances:
- a) The Annual Report or a Supplementary Report determines the arrangements and amount of an annual payment to members in respect of costs incurred in carrying out the role of a member and if appropriate take account of the variation in size or financial circumstances of different councils.
 - b) The council can if it so decides make payments to members in respect of costs of travel for attending approved duties within or outside the area of the council. The amounts claimable will be set out in the Annual or Supplementary Report of the Panel.
 - c) The council can if it so decides reimburse subsistence expenses to its members when attending approved duties within or outside the area of the council. The arrangements for reimbursement will be set out in the Annual or Supplementary Report of the Panel.
 - d) The council can if it so decides pay compensation for Financial Loss to its members where such loss has occurred for attending approved duties within or outside the area of the council. The Allowances will be set out in the Annual or Supplementary Report of the Panel.
 - e) The council can if it so decides pay an allowance to the chair or mayor and deputy chair or mayor of the council for the purposes of undertaking the role of that office. The allowance will be set out in the Annual or Supplementary Report of the Panel.
 - f) The Annual Report or a Supplementary Report determines the arrangements to pay a responsibility allowance to members of a council and if appropriate take account of the variation in size or financial circumstances of different councils.

- g) The council must reimburse the costs of care to a member if claimed, as determined in the Annual Report of the Panel.
37. A member may elect to forgo any part of an entitlement to an allowance under these Regulations by giving notice in writing to the proper officer of the council.
38. A member making a claim for compensation for Financial Loss must sign a statement that the member has not made and will not make any other claim in respect of the matter to which the claim relates.
39. “Approved Duty” under this Part means
- i. Attendance at a meeting of the council or of any committee or sub-committee of the council or of any other body to which the council makes appointments or nominations or of any committee or sub-committee of such a body.
 - ii. Attendance at any other meeting the holding of which is authorised by the council or a committee or sub-committee of the council, or a joint committee of the council and one or more councils, or a sub-committee of such a joint committee provided that at least two members of the council have been invited and where the council is divided into political groupings at least two such groups have been invited.
 - iii. Attendance at a meeting of any association of councils of which the council is a member.
 - iv. Attendance at any training or development event approved by the council.
 - v. Any other duty approved by the council or duty of a class approved by the council for the discharge of its functions or any of its committees or sub-committees.

Part 6: Miscellaneous

Arrangements for payments

40. The Schedule of an authority must set out the arrangements for the payment of salaries, allowances and fees to all members and co-opted members of that authority. Such payments may be made at such times and at such intervals as determined by the authority.

Claims

41. An authority must specify a time limit from the date on which an entitlement to travelling or subsistence allowance arises during which a claim for those allowances must be made by the person to whom they are payable. However, this does not prevent an authority from making a payment where the allowance is not claimed within the period specified.

42. Any claim for payment of travelling or subsistence allowance in accordance with these Regulations (excluding claims for travel by private motor vehicle) shall be accompanied by appropriate receipts proving actual expenses.

Avoidance of duplication

43. A claim for a payment of travelling allowance or subsistence allowance must include, or be accompanied by, a statement signed by the member or co-opted member that the member/co-opted member has not made and will not make any other claim in respect of the matter to which the claim relates.

Records of salaries, allowances and fees

44. An authority must keep a record of the payments made in accordance with these Regulations. Such record must:
- Specify the name of the recipient and the amount and nature of each payment.
 - Be available, at all reasonable times, for inspection (without charge) by any local government elector (within the meaning of section 270(1) of the 1972 Act) for the area of the authority.
 - Allow a person who is entitled to inspect the record to make a copy of any part of it upon payment of such reasonable fee as the authority may require.

Publicity requirements

(The required content of publicity requirements is contained in an annex to the Annual Report)

45. An authority must, as soon as practicable after determining its Schedule of Remuneration for the year under these Regulations and any Report of the Panel and not later than 31 July of the year to which the Schedule refers, make arrangements for the Schedule's publication within the authority's area. **(This section does not apply to community and town councils).**
46. As soon as practicable and no later than 30 September following the end of the financial year an authority must make arrangements for the publication within the authority's area, the total sum paid by it to each member/co-opted member in respect of basic salary, senior salary, co-opted member fee, reimbursement of costs of care, travel and subsistence allowances. **(This section applies to all relevant authorities).**
47. In the same timescale and in the same manner, a local authority must make arrangements for the publication of any further remuneration received by a member nominated or appointed to another relevant authority. **(This section applies only to principal councils).**

Publicising the reports of the Panel

48. Under Section 146(7) (a) and (b) of the Measure, the Panel will send a consultation draft of its Annual Report or Supplementary Report to all relevant authorities for circulation to authority members and co-opted members, so that representations can be made by members/co-opted members to the Panel, normally in a period of eight weeks.
49. The Panel will determine in its Annual or Supplementary Reports the arrangements publicising its Reports in accordance with Section 151 and 152 of the Measure.

Monitoring compliance with the Panel's determinations

50. Section 153 of the Measure determines that relevant authorities must comply with the requirements imposed by the Panel in its Annual Reports. It also empowers the Panel to monitor the payments made by relevant authorities and for it to require the provision of information that it specifies. The requirements under this section will be set out in the Annual Report of the Panel.

Annex 3: Schedule of member remuneration

1. Principal councils, national park authorities (NPAs) and Welsh fire and rescue authorities (FRAs) (but not community and town councils) must maintain an annual Schedule of Member Remuneration (the 'Schedule') which is in accord with the Panel's determinations on member salary and co-opted member payments and which must contain the following information:

In respect of a principal council:

- a. Named members who are to receive only the basic salary and the amount to be paid.
- b. Named members who are to receive a Band 1 and Band 2 senior salary, the office and portfolio held and the amount to be paid.
- c. Named members who are to receive a Band 3, Band 4 and Band 5 senior salary, the office and portfolio held and the amount to be paid.
- d. Named members who are to receive a civic salary and the amount to be paid.
- e. Named members who are to receive the co-opted member fee and whether chair or ordinary member and the amount to be paid.
- f. Named members who are to receive a senior salary as a chair of a Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee or Sub Committee and the amount to be paid.
- g. Named members in receipt of a specific or additional senior salary approved by the Panel and the amount to be paid.

In respect of National Park and Fire and Rescue Authorities:

- a. Named members who are to receive a basic salary and the amount to be paid.
 - b. Named member who is to receive a senior salary as a chair of the authority and the amount to be paid.
 - c. Named members who are to receive a senior salary as deputy chair of a committee and the amount to be paid.
 - d. Named members who are to receive the co-opted member fee and whether a chair or ordinary member and the amounts to be paid.
2. Amendments made to the Schedule during the municipal year must be communicated to the Panel as soon as it is practicable.
 3. Principal councils must confirm in their annual Schedule that the maximum limit of senior salaries set for the council has not been exceeded.

4. Principal councils, NPAs and FRAs must include a statement of allowable expenses and the duties for which they may be claimed for care, travel and subsistence in their annual Schedule which is in accord with the Panel's determinations.
5. The Schedule must set out the arrangements for the payment of salaries, allowances and fees to all members and co-opted members of the relevant authority (IRPW Regulation 35); arrangements for making claims for care, travel and subsistence expenses (IRPW Regulations 24 and 36-37); arrangements for the avoidance of duplication (IRPW Regulation 38) and arrangements for re-payment of salaries, allowances and fees (IRPW Regulation 33). This schedule must also include the duties for which members and co-opted members are able to claim travel, subsistence and reimbursement of care costs.
6. Principal councils must declare in the Schedule whether:
 - A statement of the basic responsibility of a councillor is in place.
 - Role descriptors of senior salary office holders are in place.
 - Records are kept of councillor attendance.
7. Principal councils, NPAs and FRAs must make arrangements for the publication of the Schedule of Member Remuneration as soon as practicable after its determination and no later than 31 July of the year to which it applies. The Schedule should be published in a manner that provides ready access for members of the public.
8. The **Schedule** must also be sent to the Panel Secretariat to be received by 31 July.

Annex 4: Publication of Remuneration – the Panel’s Requirements

In accordance with Section 151 of the Measure the Panel requires that:

1. Relevant authorities must publish a Statement of Payments made to its members for each financial year. This information must be published in a form and location that is easily accessible to members of the public no later than 30 September following the end of the previous financial year and in the same timescale also provided to the Panel. The following information must be provided:
 - a. The amount of basic salary, senior salary, civic salary and co-opted member fee paid to each named member/co-opted member of the relevant authority, including where the member had chosen to forego all or part of the salary, or fee for the municipal year in question. Where a senior salary has been paid, the title of the senior office held is to be provided.
 - b. The payments made by community and town councils to named members as:
 - Payments in respect of telephone usage, information technology, consumables etc.
 - Responsibility payments
 - Allowances made to a mayor/chair and deputy mayor/deputy chair
 - Compensation for Financial Loss
 - Costs incurred in respect of travel and subsistence
 - Reimbursement of the costs of care (see paragraph f below)
 - c. All travel and subsistence expenses, reimbursement of the costs of care (see paragraph f below) and other payments received by each named member and co-opted member of the relevant authority, with each category identified separately.
 - d. The amount of any further payments received by any named member nominated to, or appointed by, another relevant authority or other public body as defined by Section 67 of the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013, namely:
 - a local health board
 - a police and crime panel
 - a relevant authority
 - a body designated as a public body in an order made by the Welsh Ministers.
 - e. Names of members who did not receive basic or senior salary because they were suspended for all or part of the annual period to which the Schedule applies.

f. In respect of the publication of the reimbursement of the costs of care, the Panel has decided to provide relevant authorities with two options.

- 1) The details of the amounts reimbursed to named members; or
- 2) The total amount reimbursed by the authority during the year but not attributed to any named member.

It is a matter for each authority to decide which of these options for publication it considers appropriate.

It is also the responsibility of each authority to establish its own position on how to respond to any Freedom of Information requests it receives with regards to reimbursement of costs of care.

2. Nil returns are required to be published and provided to the Panel by 30 September.

**Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales
Room N.03
First Floor
Crown Buildings
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ**

Telephone: 0300 0253038

E-mail irpmailbox@gov.wales

The Report and other information about the Panel and its work are available on our website at:

www.remunerationpanelwales.org.uk

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Report

Democratic Services Committee

Part 1

Date: 8 November

Item No: 06

Subject **Policy for Minor Property Transactions of Council Property Assets**

Purpose To consider recommending to Council adoption of a policy to determine Minor Property Transactions by delegating authority to Officers.

Author Housing and Assets Manager

Ward All

Summary Currently all acquisitions and disposals of property must be decided, in advance, by the designated Cabinet Member. This can result in relatively minor matters becoming delayed and significant management and Member time being committed in processing such transactions. Previously, the Council has adopted a policy to manage minor matters through a simplified procedure, delegated to Chief Officers. It is proposed to reintroduce such a system.

Proposal **To recommend to Council adoption of the policy for Minor Property Transactions set out in this report. This will speed up and simplify minor property transactions and reduce management costs.**

Action by Head of Regeneration, Investment and Housing

Timetable Immediate

This report was prepared after consultation with:

- Strategic Director - Place
- Head of Regeneration, Investment and Housing
- Head of Law and Regulations (Monitoring Officer)
- Head of Finance (Chief Finance Officer)
- Head of People and Business Change
- Housing and Assets Manager
- Associate Director of Property Services, Newport Norse

Signed

Background

The Council owns a substantial and varied property portfolio. This comprises operational premises, properties held for investment purposes and future development sites. It is recognised that efficient use of property assets impacts directly on service delivery, as well as having significant financial implications.

Under the current democratic arrangements, responsibility for property transactions falls to the designated Cabinet Member. Specifically, the Cabinet Member can undertake any acquisition and disposal of interests in property (regardless of nature) only following formal consultation. Although there is opportunity to deal with such matters at scheduled meetings, it can be said that certain matters of a minor nature do not warrant the formalities and delays, of processing through the full reporting procedure. A collaborative approach may be achieved through other means.

Under previous reporting arrangements, the Council adopted the principle that certain minor property transactions be managed under less formal procedures. Rather than be considered by the designated Cabinet Member, certain minor issues were delegated to designate Chief Officers. This procedure integrated decision making into service operations, worked satisfactorily and proved efficient in operation. It also prevented the expenditure of unnecessary resources in administering minor matters.

It is proposed therefore, to reintroduce a similar scheme, which will assist the Council's long term decision making.

It is recognised that, in the application of this policy, responsible officers will exercise judgement in identifying matters that should be discussed with Cabinet or Ward Members, prior to determination, ensuring involvement with key issues.

Matters Covered in this Delegation

1. To dispose of/acquire freehold interest or grant/acquire leasehold interests on parcels of land not exceeding 100 square metres in extent.
2. To grant/acquire interests in property with an annual value not exceeding £1,000.
3. To grant/acquire easements for services.
4. To grant licenses to graze animals and/or mow grass for haymaking.
5. To grant/acquire licenses to use property
6. To grant/acquire leases for a period of less than 7 years
7. To grant the release/discharge of covenants relating to Council land.

Responsible Officer

The Head of Regeneration, Investment and Housing and in his absence, the Housing and Property Manager.

Application of the Delegation

It is confirmed that only minor property issues would be dealt with under these arrangements. All significant acquisitions and disposals would continue to be reported formally, for consideration by the Cabinet Member.

In reaching any decision under these power, the following criteria will be considered:

Estate Management Criteria

- a) The Council's adopted policy framework.
- b) The need to retain capability to facilitate comprehensive development opportunities in the medium term.
- c) Effect of the proposed activity on the physical environment.

- d) Opportunity to reduce future financial liability in respect, for example, of maintenance, third party rights etc.
- e) Opportunities to generate revenue income.

Other Criteria

- a) The comments of Ward Members.
- b) Comments and advice from Council technical officers and Service managers.
- c) Representations from owners of neighbouring properties

Monitoring

The designated Cabinet Member for Property Assets will receive reports, confirming decisions taken under delegated powers, for monitoring purposes.

Financial Summary

	Year 1 (Current) £	Year 2 £	Year 3 £	Ongoing £	Notes including budgets heads affected
Costs					<p>There are no net additional costs incurred in this procedure.</p> <p>It is anticipated adoption of this policy will reduce management time.</p>
(Income)					
Net Costs (Savings) Net Impact on Budget					

Risks

Risk	Impact of Risk if it occurs* (H/M/L)	Probability of risk occurring (H/M/L)	What is the Council doing or what has it done to avoid the risk or reduce its effect	Who is responsible for dealing with the risk?
A matter of significance is inadvertently decided under this procedure.	M	L	Officers will consider carefully the use of the policy and instigate suitable organisational procedures.	NCC Newport Norse
There is confusion amongst Officers, regarding the scope and application of these delegations	L	M	There will need to be a process of communication from the CSAMG to cascade information regarding the new arrangements.	CSAMG NCC Newport Norse
The designated Cabinet Member is	L	L	Regular monitoring information to be provided.	NCC Newport Norse

unaware of property transactions				
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* Taking account of proposed mitigation measures

Links to Council Policies and Priorities

Council's Constitution
 Corporate Plan
 Service Implementation Plans
 Corporate Asset Management Plan
 Asset Disposal Programme

Options Available and Considered

1. To continue with the current arrangements for deciding acquisitions and disposals of all property assets.
2. To recommend to Council adoption of the policy for Minor Property Transactions set out in this report.

Preferred Option and Why

To recommend to Council adoption of the policy for Minor Property Transactions set out in this report. This will speed up and simplify minor transactions and reduce management costs.

Comments of Chief Financial Officer

There are no direct financial implications as a result of adopting this policy.

Comments of Monitoring Officer

In accordance with the current scheme of delegation all property-related executive decisions have to be taken by the Cabinet Member for Assets and Member Development because there is no longer any officer delegation for minor property transactions. Under the previous scheme, certain operational matters, such as the grant of short term tenancies, licences and easements and disposals of small parcels of land were delegated to officers. However, when the scheme of delegation in the constitution was last amended, this was unintentionally omitted. Therefore, Democratic Services Committee are being asked to recommend to council that the minor property decisions set out in this report are included within the officer scheme of delegation and the Constitution is amended accordingly.

Comments of Head of People and Business Change

There are no staffing implications arising from this report.

Asset management is a key area for consideration as part of the Well-being of Future Generations Act. Coordination and integration of asset management should be a key focus for the Council. Adopting a Policy for Minor Property transactions will ensure decisions are made in a timely manner and coordinated on a more formal basis. Asset management is also a key step within Newport's Well-being Plan and any policy will need to be mindful of this plan and refer to the Community Well-being Profiles when considering any proposals.

Comments of Cabinet Member

Cabinet Member has been briefed on this report.

Local issues

N/A

Scrutiny Committees

N/A

Equalities Impact Assessment and the Equalities Act 2010

The Equality Act 2010 contains a Public Sector Equality Duty which came into force on 06 April 2011. The Act identifies a number of 'protected characteristics', namely age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; sexual orientation; marriage and civil partnership. The new single duty aims to integrate consideration of equality and good relations into the regular business of public authorities. Compliance with the duty is a legal obligation and is intended to result in better informed decision-making and policy development and services that are more effective for users. In exercising its functions, the Council must have due regard to the need to: eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct that is prohibited by the Act; advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a protected characteristic and those who do not; and foster good relations between persons who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. The Act is not overly prescriptive about the approach a public authority should take to ensure due regard, although it does set out that due regard to advancing equality involves: removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by people due to their protected characteristics; taking steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups where these differ from the need of other people; and encouraging people from protected groups to participate in public life or in other activities where their participation is disproportionately low.

Children and Families (Wales) Measure

Although no targeted consultation takes place specifically aimed at children and young people, consultation on planning applications and appeals is open to all of our citizens regardless of their age. Depending on the scale of the proposed development, applications are publicised via letters to neighbouring occupiers, site notices, press notices and/or social media. People replying to consultations are not required to provide their age or any other personal data, and therefore this data is not held or recorded in any way, and responses are not separated out by age.

Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

Asset management is a key area for consideration as part of the Well-being of Future Generations Act. Any policy that relates to asset management must consider the five ways of working and the national well-being goals. Adopting a policy for minor transactions will ensure a more coordinated and integrated approach to decision making and managing minor assets. Any decision by officers will be made in consultation with key people across the Council, the local community, residents and other agencies as required. Introducing a new scheme will assist with long term decision making for the Council and this policy will ensure decisions are made in a more timely manner and prevent any hold ups in the system.

This policy and the outcomes of this policy will contribute to many of the well-being goals, particularly a Prosperous Wales through more efficient and proportionate use of resources.

Crime and Disorder Act 1998

Section 17(1) of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 imposes a duty on the Local Authority to exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area.

Consultation

Comments received from wider consultation, including comments from elected members, are detailed in each application report in the attached schedule.

Background Papers

None

Dated: 8 November 2018

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