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Contact:/Cysylltwch â: Gwasanaethau Democraidaidd



**THIS IS A MEETING WHICH THE PUBLIC ARE ENTITLED TO ATTEND**

Dydd Mercher, 11 Mawrth 2020 Dydd Mercher, 11 Mawrth 2020

Dear Sir/Madam

**PWYLLGOR GWASANAETHAU DEMOCRATAIDD**

A meeting of the Pwyllgor Gwasanaethau Democraidaidd will be held in Siambur y Cyngor, Canolfan Ddinesig on Dydd Llun, 16eg Mawrth, 2020 at 10.00 am.

Yours faithfully

Michelle Morris  
Managing Director

**AGENDA**

**Pages**

**1. CYFIEITHU AR Y PRYD**

Mae croeso i chi ddefnyddio'r Gymraeg yn y cyfarfod, mae angen o leiaf 3 diwrnod gwaith o hysbysiad ymlaen llaw os dymunwch wneud hynny. Darperir gwasanaeth cyfieithu ar y pryd os gwneir cais.

**2. YMDDIHEURIADAU**

Derbyn ymddiheuriadau

We welcome correspondence in the medium of Welsh or English. / Croesawn ohebiaith trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg neu'r Saesneg.

**3. DATGANIADAU BUDDIANT A GODDEFEBAU**

Ystyried unrhyw ddatganiadau a buddiant a goddefebau a dderbyniwyd.

**4. PWYLLGOR GWASANAETHAU DEMOCRATAIDD 3 - 10**

Derbyn cofnodion y cyfarfod a gynhaliwyd ar 5 Tachwedd 2019.

**5. ADRODDIAD BLYNYDDOL Y PANEL ANNIBYNNOL CYMRU ARE GYDNABYDDIAETH ARIANNOL 2020/2021 11 - 106**

Ystyried adroddiad y Pennaeth Datblygu Sefydliadol.

**6. ADRODDIAD BLYNYDDOL Y PENNAETH GWASANAETHAU DEMOCRATAIDD 107 - 112**

Ystyried adroddiad y Pennaeth Llywodraethiant a Phartneriaethau.

To: M. Cross (Cadeirydd)  
J. Holt (Is-gadeirydd)  
M. Cook  
N. Daniels  
G. A. Davies  
M. Day  
P. Edwards  
K. Hayden  
W. Hodgins  
M. Holland  
H. McCarthy  
J. Millard  
J. C. Morgan  
K. Pritchard  
T. Sharrem

All other Members (for information)  
Manager Director  
Chief Officers

**COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT**

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b><u>THE CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE</u></b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b><u>DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE – 5<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2019</u></b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b><u>DEMOCRATIC OFFICER</u></b>

**PRESENT:** COUNCILLOR M. CROSS (CHAIR)

Councillors M. Cook  
 N. Daniels  
 G. A. Davies  
 P. Edwards  
 K. Hayden  
 M. Holland  
 J. Holt  
 J. Millard  
 J. C. Morgan  
 K. Pritchard

**ALSO:** **Scrutiny Chairs & Vice-Chairs**  
 Councillors C. Meredith  
 G. Paulsen

**AND:** Head of Governance & Partnerships (Statutory Head of  
 Democratic Services  
 Service Manager – Performance & Democratic  
 Organisational Development Manager – Payroll/Health  
 & Safety

<b><u>ITEM</u></b>	<b><u>SUBJECT</u></b>	<b><u>ACTION</u></b>
1.	<p><b><u>SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION</u></b></p> <p>It was noted that no requests had been received for the simultaneous translation service.</p>	
2.	<p><b><u>APOLOGIES</u></b></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received for:-</p> <p>Councillors J. Hill, W. Hodgins, K. Rowson and J. Wilkins.</p>	
3.	<p><b><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS</u></b></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest or dispensations reported.</p>	
4.	<p><b><u>DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE</u></b></p> <p>Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2019, whereupon:-</p> <p><b><u>Apologies</u></b></p> <p>It was noted that Councillor Julie Holt had submitted her apologies for the above meeting.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED, subject to the foregoing, that the Minutes be received as a true record of proceedings.</p>	
5.	<p><b><u>DRAFT REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES 2020/2021</u></b></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Organisational Development.</p>	

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At the invitation of the Chair, the Organisational Development Manager spoke to the report and highlighted the following salient points contained therein:-

- The report detailed the main determinations of the 2020/21 draft annual report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (IRPW).
- As part of the consultation process Panel Members had met with the Heads of Democratic Services and Chairs of Democratic Services Committee. The position generally expressed by both officers and Members remained, particularly in the context of austerity, that the basic workload discharged by all elected Members was substantial and exceeded 3 days per week.
- When making financial determinations for the Annual Report the Panel had determined that there should be an increase in the basic salary level in 2020/2021 of £350 per year which equated to 2.5%.
- It was noted that this basic salary in the sum of £14,218 should be paid by each principal authority in Wales from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2020 to each of its elected Members unless an individual Member opted personally and in writing to receive a lower amount.
- No additional increases would be paid to senior salary holders in 2020/2021 – these Members would receive the basic salary element increase.
- There was no change to the reimbursement of Costs of Care, this remained at a maximum of £403 per month upon production of receipts from the carer. It was noted that the IRPW were currently undertaking a review of this provision with a view to encouraging a greater take up by those Members who had caring responsibilities.
- Previously it had been the decision of each principal Council in how the cost of care was published. However, for 2020/2021 the IRPW had removed this option and stipulated that ‘the Panel had decided that

the relevant authorities should only publish the total amount reimbursed during the year’.

The views of Members were, thereupon, sought in relation to the report.

- **Reimbursement of Costs of Care** - the Chair commended the continued inclusion of the reimbursement of the costs of care for those Members who had caring responsibilities within the draft proposals.

The Head of Governance & Partnerships (Statutory Head of Democratic Services) advised that this issue had been discussed at length at the IRPW consultation event. It was noted that there was generally a low take up in Wales for reimbursement of the costs of care and the IRPW as outlined above was undertaking a review of this provision with a view to encouraging a greater take up by those Members who had caring responsibilities.

Those Members who felt they needed this support was urged to contact the Head of Governance & Partnerships (Statutory Head of Democratic Services).

- **Supporting the Work of Elected Members** – a Member referred to Paragraph 2.9.1 of the report i.e. that the Panel did not consider it appropriate that Members should be required to pay for internet related services to enable them to discharge their council duties and asked whether there should be an upper limit applied to this provision (for example £10-15 per month).

The Chair pointed out that there were currently problems being experienced in some parts of Wales in terms of internet connections and suggested that this pertinent point be discussed with Panel Members.

The Head of Governance & Partnerships confirmed that certain parts of Wales did experience issues with internet access and broadband speeds. However, the

Panel did not consider it appropriate that elected Members should be required to pay for internet related services to enable them to discharge their council duties and the Member's comment would be raised as part of the consultation process on the draft proposals.

This was action was AGREED accordingly.

- **Payments to Members of Town and Community Councils** – in reply to a point raised, the Head of Governance & Partnerships advised that the Town and Community Councils would be aware of this aspect of the report and would have had the opportunity to comment and make observations to the IRPW in respect of the draft proposals.

It was noted that the IRPW was eager to meet with representatives of Town and Community Councils through the Council Liaison Meeting and arrangements would be made for the representatives to attend a future Liaison Meeting.

Upon a vote being taken it was unanimously,

The Committee AGREED to recommend to Council, subject to the foregoing, that the report be accepted and Option 1 be endorsed, namely the determinations as set out in the draft Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales report be noted.

**6. DEMOCRATIC ARRANGEMENTS AND SCRUTINY PROGRESS REPORT**

The report of the Service Manager Performance & Democratic was submitted for consideration.

At the invitation of the Chair, the Service Manager Performance & Democratic spoke in detail to the report which provided Democratic Arrangements and Scrutiny Progress covering the period April to September 2019.

The Service Manager concluded by drawing Members' attention to the reducing level of attendance at Scrutiny

Committees compared to the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> quarters of this year and compared to the same quarter the previous year.

The views of Members were, thereupon, sought in relation to the report.

- **Mobile Iron App** – a Member expressed his concern that the intranet was only available for those who had access to a laptop and enquired whether the same service could be provided for Members who accessed information on iPads.

The Service Manager undertook to investigate this matter.

- **Modern.Gov** – a Member expressed his concern that he was unable to access the agenda paperwork for the authority via the Council's website.

The Head of Governance & Partnerships (Statutory Head of Democratic Services) explained that technical issues were being experienced with the Moder.Gov 'app' at present and work was being undertaken with the SRS to rectify this issue. However, agenda paperwork was still accessible publicly via the internet.

Councillor J. Millard joined the meeting at this juncture.

- **Webcasting** – the Chair commended the approach to webcasting and said he hoped that meetings of the Council could be webcast in the future.

Another Member added that in previous years the Council had webcast meetings as a pilot approach and said that he would also welcome meetings being webcast in the future.

- **Member Attendance at Scrutiny Committees/Members Briefings** – a Member expressed his concern regarding the number of Scrutiny Committees/Members Briefings that had been cancelled or rescheduled recently and asked that this matter be addressed.



The Head of Governance & Partnerships (Statutory Head of Democratic Services) undertook to pursue the matter.

A brief discussion ensued when another Member also expressed his concern regarding the low level of attendance at Members Briefings and at Scrutiny Committees.

The Chair suggested that attendance levels be discussed within respective political group meetings.

- **My Council Services App** – in reply to a request, the Head of Governance & Partnerships undertook to pursue whether there was an option available to report several issues at once on the My Council Services App rather than individual service requests being submitted. The importance of the using of this app to report issues was noted as this app was able to capture and record vial information.

The Committee AGREED to recommend to Council, subject to the foregoing, that the report be accepted and Option 1 be endorsed, namely that the information contained with the report be noted and the report be recommended to Council for approval.

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# Agenda Item 5

*Executive Committee and Council only*

Date signed off by the Monitoring Officer: N/A

Date signed off by the Section 151 Officer: N/A

**Committee: Democratic Services Committee**

Date of Meeting: **16<sup>th</sup> March, 2020**

Report Subject: **Annual Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales 2020/21**

Portfolio Holder: **Leader/Executive Member – Corporate Services, Councillor N.J. Daniels**

Report Submitted by: **Andrea J. Prosser - Head of Organisational Development**

Report Written by: **Richard Bridge - Organisational Development Manager**

Reporting Pathway								
Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Executive Committee	Council	Other (please state)
x	x			x			x	

**1.0 Purpose of the Report**

1.1 To inform Members of the details contained within the Annual Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales for 2020/21.

**2.0 Scope and Background**

2.0.1 The report details the specific changes within the 2020/21 Annual Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (the Panel) as they relate to Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council.

2.0.2 The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 extended the responsibilities of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (the Panel) and its powers under Section 142 to decide (prescribe) payments to members of relevant authorities.

2.0.3 On an annual basis the Panel publish its report on Members remuneration. The annual report for 2020/21 (attached at Appendix 1, point 7.2 – published 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2020) details the determinations for the upcoming year.

2.0.4 During 2017, the Panel visited all 22 principal councils across Wales providing an opportunity to discuss issues with a cross section of members and officers. The conclusions from these discussions have where possible been incorporated in the Panel's determinations.

## 2.1 **Basic & Senior Salaries**

2.1.1 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 and 2019 the Panel continued its regular liaison with councillors and officers. Panel members met with the Chairs of Democratic Services Committees and their officers. 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 exceeds 3 days per week.

2.1.2 When making financial determinations for the Annual Report, the Panel considered the progression of the variety of benchmark figures and has determined there shall be an increase for 2020/21 of £350 a year which equates to 2.5%, a point midway between RPI and CPI.

2.1.3 This salary shall be paid by each principal authority in Wales from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2020 to each of its elected members unless any individual member opts personally and in writing to receive a lower amount.

## 2.2 **Executive**

2.2.1 Many Councils operate with a cabinet (Executive) of 10 (the statutory maximum) others choose to have a smaller cabinet and the range of individual portfolios is much greater. The Panel's previous determinations contained flexibility for each council to decide the appropriate range of portfolios to meet local needs and to adjust payments within the Executive to reflect responsibility.

2.2.2 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.

2.2.3 No additional increases will be paid to senior salary holders in 2020/21 – they will receive the basic salary element increase.

## 2.3 **Chairs of Committee**

2.3.1 There is a significant difference in the responsibilities and functions of chairing different committees. Councils do not have to pay chairs of committees and it is a matter for each council to decide which, if any, are remunerated. This allows councils to take account of differing levels of responsibility.

2.3.2 Where chairs of committees are paid then the remuneration for 2020/21 will be £22,918.

2.3.3 Payment of basic & senior salaries for 2020/21 are therefore:-

	<b>2019/20</b> <b>£</b>	<b>2020/21</b> <b>£</b>
<b>Basic Salary</b>	13,868	14,218
<b>Senior Salaries</b>		
Leader	44,100	44,450
Deputy Leader	31,100	31,450
Executive Members	27,100	27,450
Committee Chairs	22,568	22,918
Leader of Largest Opposition Group	22,568	22,918
Leader of other political groups	17,568	17,918

2.4 **Leader of Largest Opposition Group**

2.4.1 The Panel remains of the view that a council must make a senior salary available to the leader of the largest opposition group and has determined that this role should be remunerated at £22,918.

2.5 **Civic Heads and Deputies**

2.5.1 The Panel had previously allowed councils to vary salaries of civic heads and deputy civic heads to reflect the specific responsibilities attached to the roles. However, Councils strongly expressed to the Panel that elected members do not wish to make decisions and as such, the choices and options were removed in 2019.

If civic salaries are to be paid, the payment for Band 3 is set at £22,918 for a civic head and at the Band 5 salary of £17,918 for a deputy civic head (Determination 3).

2.6 **Presiding Member**

2.6.1 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 £22,918.

2.7 **Specific or additional senior salaries**

2.7.1 Councils can apply for specific or additional salaries that do not fall within the current Remuneration Framework or which could not be accommodated within the maximum number of senior salaries.

2.8 **Job Share Arrangements**

2.8.1 Some Councils have also raised the possibility of operating some senior salary posts on a 'job share' arrangement. The Panel is supportive of this principle and have determined that:-

- For members of an executive each 'share' will be paid 50% of the appropriate salary.
- The Statutory maximum for cabinets cannot be exceeded and both job sharers will count towards the maximum.

- It is the number of persons in receipt of a senior salary, not the number of senior salary posts that count towards the cap.
- The Panel must be informed of the details of any job share arrangements.

## 2.9 **Supporting the Work of Elected members**

2.9.1 The Panel has reiterated its determination that the support provided should take account of the specific needs of individual members. It is considered necessary for each elected member to have ready use of telephone and e-mail services, and to have 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.

2.9.2 Councils 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.

2.9.3 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.

## 2.10 **Key Factors underpinning the Panel's determinations**

2.10.1 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.

2.10.2 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 there is transparency in this process so any possible suggestion that members are put under pressure to forego some of the salaries is avoided.

2.10.3 The following must be applied:

Determination 6:

- a) An elected member must not be remunerated for more than one senior post within their 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.

Determination 7: Members in receipt of a Band 1 or Band 2 senior salary cannot receive a salary from any National Parks Authority or Fire Rescue Authority to which they have been appointed. They remain eligible to claim travel and subsistence expenses and reimbursement of costs of care.

Determination 8: 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.

**2.11 Reimbursement of Mileage, Other Travel & Subsistence Costs**

2.11.1 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:-

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
24p per mile	Motor cycles
20p per mile	Bicycles

2.11.2 The Subsistence rates will be as follows, these rates are in line with Welsh Government Rates:-

£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	Stay with friends / family

2.11.3 Recommended practice is that overnight accommodation should usually be reserved and paid for on behalf of members by the Authority, in which case the authority may set its own reasonable limits. – we would not normally divert from these levels.

**2.12 Reimbursement of Costs of Care**

2.12.1 There is no change to the reimbursement of Costs of Care, this remains at a maximum of £403 per month upon production of receipts from the carer.

2.12.2 From the discussions held during IRPW visits to 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 they are entitled to support them in their role, because of concerns about the adverse publicity this can attract. The IRPW urges Democratic Services Committees to take steps to encourage and facilitate greater use of this element of the framework so that members concerned are not financially disadvantaged.

- 2.12.3 The IRPW are continuing to review the provision and on 13<sup>th</sup> February, 2020 published a draft supplementary report – Principals relating to the reimbursement of costs of care.

The draft supplementary report is attached in Appendix 2, point 7.2 and proposes a set of principles that should be adopted by all relevant authorities.

The consultation period ends on 9<sup>th</sup> April, 2020 and the IRPW would appreciate comments prior to the publication of the final report.

- 2.12.4 Previously it was the decision of each principal Council in how the cost of care is published. For 2020/2021 the IRPW has removed this option and stipulates, in section 1.F of annex 4, 'the Panel has decided that relevant authorities should only publish the total amount reimbursed during the year'.

It is a matter for each authority to determine its response to any Freedom of Information requests it receives. However, it is not intended to disclose details of individual claims.

## 2.13 **Entitlement to Family Absence**

- 2.13.1 There is no change to this entitlement. An elected member is entitled to retain a basic salary when taking family absence. (Maternity paternity adoption etc.).

- 2.13.2 When a senior salary holder is eligible for family absence, he/she will continue to receive the salary for the duration of the absence. It is matter for the authority to decide whether or not to make a substitute appointment.

## 2.14 **Sickness Absence for Senior Salary Holders**

- 2.14.1 The Family Absence Regulations are very specific relating to entitlement and only available for elected members of principal councils. Absence for reasons of ill health is not included. The Panel has considered this and is amending the framework to provide specific arrangements for long term sickness of Senior salary holders.

- 2.14.2 A senior salary holder on long term sickness can, if the authority decides, continue to receive remuneration for the post held (the maximum length of sickness absence is proposed as 26 weeks or until the individual's term of office ends).

- 2.14.3 It will be a decision for the Council whether to make a substitute appointment but the substitute will be eligible to be paid the senior salary appropriate to the post.

- 2.14.4 If the paid substitution results in the authority exceeding the maximum number of senior salaries payable an addition will be allowed for the duration of the substitution. The Panel must be informed within 14 days of the decision and the authority's Schedule of Remuneration amended accordingly.



## 2.15 **Payments to Co-opted Members**

2.15.1 The Panel has determined that a daily/half daily fee remains appropriate remuneration for the role undertaken by co-opted members of the Council as follows:-

Chairs of Standards and Audit Committees	£256 (4 hours & over) £128 (up to 4 hours)
Ordinary members of standards committees who also chair standards committees for community & town councils	£226 (4 hours & over) £113 (up to 4 hours)
Ordinary members of standards committees, education scrutiny committee, crime & disorder scrutiny committee and audit committee	£198 (4 hours & over) £99 (up to 4 hours)

2.15.2 Reasonable time for pre-meeting preparation is eligible 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.

2.15.3 Travelling time to and from the place of the meeting can be included in the claims for payments made by the co-opted member (up to the daily rate).

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

2.15.5 Meetings eligible for the payment of fees include other committees and working groups (including task & 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.

2.15.6 The Council can decide on the maximum number of days in any one year for which co-opted members may be paid. Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council has previously decided that 10 days is the maximum.

## 3. **Options for Recommendation**

3.1 Democratic Services Committee to consider and agree the determinations contained in the IRPW Annual Report for 2020/2021 prior to consideration by full Council.

### **Option 1:**

Agree with the determinations set out in the annual report detailed in Appendix 1 for 2020/2021.

### **Option 2:**

Agree with the determinations set out in the annual report detailed in Appendix 1 for 2020/2021 and give comments for submission to the IRPW in relation to the draft supplementary report – Principals relating to the

reimbursement of Costs of Care as part of the consultation process that ends on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2020.

4. **Evidence of how does this topic supports the achievement of the Corporate Plan / Statutory Responsibilities / Blaenau Gwent Well-being Plan**

5. **Implications Against Each Option**

5.1 **Impact on Budget (short and long term impact)**

Salaries for all members will increase by £350 per member per annum.

Based upon current arrangements, the additional costs for 2020/21 are estimated to be £15,000.

5.2 **Risk including Mitigating Actions**

Failure to comply with the Panel's determinations will result in reputational damage for the Council. This is mitigated by Democratic Services Committee and Council considering and agreeing the determinations.

5.3 **Legal**

The report outlines the plans of the IRPW in terms of elected member remuneration which will become regulation.

It is also the responsibility of the Council to establish our position on how to respond to any Freedom of Information requests we receive in relation to reimbursement of costs of care. The IRPW states within annex 4 of appendix 1, that it is not the intention to disclose details of individual's claims.

5.4 **Personnel**

There are no direct staffing implications from this report.

6. **Supporting Evidence**

Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Annual Report 2020/21.

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2020-02/annual-report-2020-to-2021.pdf>

6.1 **Performance Information and Data**

Not applicable to this report.

6.2 **Expected outcome for the public**

Not applicable to this report.

6.3 **Involvement (consultation, engagement, participation)**

Not applicable to this report.

6.4 **Thinking for the Long term (forward planning)**

Not applicable to this report.

- 6.5 **Preventative focus**  
Not applicable to this report.
- 6.6 **Collaboration / partnership working**  
Not applicable to this report.
- 6.7 **Integration(across service areas)**  
Not applicable to this report.
- 6.8 **EqlA(screening and identifying if full impact assessment is needed)**  
Not applicable to this report.
7. **Monitoring Arrangements**  
7.1 *State how the work will be monitored e.g. through scrutiny or directorate performance management arrangements.*
- 7.2 **Background Documents /Electronic Links**
- Appendix 1**
- <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2020-02/annual-report-2020-to-2021.pdf>
- Appendix 2**
- <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2020-02/independent-remuneration-panel-for-wales-draft-supplementary-report.pdf>

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# Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales

## Annual Report

February 2020

Mae'r ddogfen yma hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg.  
This document is also available in Welsh.

## **ANNUAL REPORT 2020**

### **FOREWORD**

In 2017 the Panel visited each of the 22 principal councils and met with many members and officers. Since then we have met with all Fire and Rescue and National Park Authorities and continued with the programme of meetings with Community and Town Councillors and Clerks. In this draft Annual Report we continue to reflect some of the issues that have arisen 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 tables and graphs in section 3. A more detailed paper will be available on our website.

Our draft Annual Report proposed an increase in the basic salary of elected members of principal councils and members of both Fire and Rescue Authorities and National Park Authorities to take account of the current rate of inflation which will help prevent further erosion. The responses to the consultation generally accepted the reasons for the increase and agreed that payments to elected members had not kept pace with the cost of living. We have decided to retain the proposals contained in our draft Report. Concerns about the financial impact of any increases when local government in Wales continues to be financially stretched are inevitable. However, we have to balance the issue of affordability with fairness to members of local councils and recognise that the current level of payments means that many of them struggle financially. As we have consistently indicated, representative democracy does not come without a cost. In the current circumstances we consider our determinations set out in this Report achieve this balance.

Other issues that were raised in several responses related to the date of implementation of the determinations and matters of taxation of some of the payments.

Some responses suggested that the date of implementation should be following the authority's Annual Meeting. The Panel's statutory position in this regard is clear. The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 stipulates that the Panel's Annual Report relates to each financial year.

While we fully appreciate the concerns expressed about the application of taxation to some of the payments, it is not a matter that is within our remit to take this up directly, we are providing information to support representations to HMRC. We have also advised authorities to make representations individually.

The term of office of Julie May, who has been a member of the Panel since 2016, ended on 31<sup>st</sup> December. I would wish to put on record my thanks to her for her work and commitment. She was a valuable member and will be missed. Also, my thanks to our secretariat who carry out all the administrative tasks without which we could not function.

John Bader  
Chair

## Panel Membership

John Bader – Chair  
Gregory Owens - Vice Chair  
Stephen Mulholland

Julie May  
Saz Willey  
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Detailed information about the members can be found on the website: <http://irpw.gov.wales>

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## Introduction



**This is the twelfth Annual Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (the Panel), and the ninth 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 authorities, 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 amount, the Panel must take into account what it considers will be the likely financial impact of doing so on relevant authorities". 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. It is therefore a matter of balancing issues of affordability and public perception with fairness to members for their time, worth and responsibility.
4. 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. The financial constraints on the public sector and particularly local authorities have 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 proposes to increase the basic annual salary by £350 to £14,218 (an increase of 2.5%).

6. 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 they are entitled to support them in their role, because of concerns about the adverse publicity this can attract (see Annex 4 for changes to the publication requirements). 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. We are currently undertaking a review of this provision with a view to encouraging greater take up by those members who have caring responsibilities.
7. The Panel has continued to contribute wherever possible to enhancing diversity in local government in Wales through its determinations. The Panel produces leaflets for prospective candidates on the remuneration of members of councils. We are pleased that several councils include this leaflet on their websites. In addition since the last report we have produced a short film [Ever thought about being a Welsh councillor?](#)
8. During 2019 we met with each of the three National Park Authorities (NPAs) and each of the three Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs). Discussions with members indicated that the time commitment had increased. We have reflected this in our determinations and the salaries for NPAs are now to be based on 44 days per year and for FRAs 22 days per year.
9. We have continued to engage with community and town councils and have met with numerous representative groups. 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.
10. 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 Head of Paid Service or Chief Fire Officer). The Local Government (Wales) Act 2015 extended this responsibility, on a temporary basis, to Chief Officers of principal authorities. This function of the Panel ceases on 31 March 2020. 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.
11. 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.
12. One issue that has been a point of discussion during the last year is the action of the Council in respect of the Reports of the Panel which it receives. When the Panel's Annual Report is issued, principal councils must comply with the statutory requirements and apply all the relevant determinations. The proper officer of the council must put in place mechanisms for all eligible council members to receive

payments as determined by the Panel. There are currently no options relating to levels of remuneration by principal councils that require a decision by full council. Levels of payments to which members are entitled cannot be varied by a vote of a principal council.

13. Only an individual member may communicate in writing to the proper officer if, as *an individual*, they wish to decline all or part of the payment to which they are entitled.
14. How the IRPW Annual Report is formally received or noted by full council is not a matter that is within the Panel's statutory remit. Individual constitutions or standing orders of councils may vary as to matters that may be submitted to full council for consideration. It is for each council to decide how they wish to manage receipt of the IRPW Report and if appropriate seek the advice of their legal officers. However, all council members and officers should take care that no misleading statements are made or reported in media, in particular, an indication that a council has taken a decision to reduce or vary levels of payments. There are no powers that permit a principal council to take such action.

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<sup>1</sup> <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 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 13	page 28	page 32	N/A <sup>2</sup>
Senior Roles	page 17	page 28	page 32	page 44
Committee Chairs	page 16	page 28	page 32	N/A
Opposition Groups	page 15	N/A	N/A	N/A
Civic Heads and Deputies	page 18	N/A	N/A	page 47
Presiding Members	page 19	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mileage	page 40	page 40	page 40	page 45
Other Travel Costs	page 40	page 40	page 40	page 45
Subsistence Costs	page 41	page 41	page 41	page 45
Costs of Care	page 37	page 37	page 37	page 46
Family Absence	page 26	N/A	N/A	N/A
Sickness Absence	page 38	page 38	page 38	N/A
Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committees	page 24	N/A	N/A	N/A
Pension	page 25	N/A	N/A	N/A
Co-optees	page 35	page 35	page 35	N/A
Specific or Additional Allowances	page 22	page 29	page 32	N/A
Payments to Community and Town Councillors	N/A	N/A	N/A	page 43
Compensation for Financial Loss	N/A	N/A	N/A	page 45
Statement of Payments	page 77	page 77	page 77	page 77
Schedule of Remuneration	Page 75	Page 75	Page 75	N/A
Salaries of Head of Paid Services and Chief Officers	Page 52	N/A	Page 52	N/A

<sup>2</sup> 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 In 2009 the Panel set the maximum basic salary at £13,868, representing three fifths of the then median gross earnings of all full-time employees resident in Wales as reported in the Annual Survey of Hourly Earnings (ASHE) published by the Office of National Statistics. The Panel assessed it appropriate to use a figure comparable with constituents' pay, adjusted for the part-time nature of the work of a member with no senior responsibilities. This identical figure of £13,868 was determined as the basic salary in the IRPW 2019 annual report, ten years on. A detailed explanatory paper setting out the historical context and analysis is available on the IRPW website at this [link](#). The key issues are outlined below.

3.1.1 Over this last decade, taking account of affordability and acceptability, the Panel has determined figures for basic salary which have varied but have not kept pace with measures of inflation or other possible comparators. Table 1, illustrated by Graph 1, demonstrates the rate of increase of these alternative measures on the basic salary from 2012 of £13,175. Table 2 expresses these increases as a percentage year on year. The various comparators analysed are Retail Prices Index, Consumer Prices Index, Wales Median Salary (ASHE), NJC (public sector employees), Living Wage, Assembly Members, and MPs. 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 a week. The Panel acknowledges that many members routinely work in excess of these hours, as analysed in paragraphs 3.2 and 3.3. It follows that, other than the Basic Elected Member figure, the amounts shown are predictive and notional.

3.1.2 To set this in the context of other Welsh elected members, over this same 8-year period an assembly member's salary has increased by 25.6% (£53,852 to £67,649 - now indexed to Average Salaries in Wales ASHE) and an MP's salary has increased by 22.4% (£65,738 to £79,468).

3.1.3 Thus, backbench members' salaries have fallen significantly behind by any reasonable measure of inflation.

**Table 1 - Alternative measures & benchmarks for basic salary (2013 baseline)**

<b>Year</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>IRPW Basic</b>	<b>13175</b>	<b>13300</b>	<b>13300</b>	<b>13300</b>	<b>13400</b>	<b>13600</b>	<b>13868</b>	<b>14218</b>
<b>RPI</b>	13175	13531	13747	13912	14259	14845	15245	15702
<b>CPI</b>	13175	13518	13720	13734	13775	14175	14515	14805
<b>Wales Median</b>	13175	13702	13784	13922	14297	14441	14758	15053*
<b>NJC SP 27**</b>	13175	13267	13321	13587	13723	13860	14137	14505
<b>Living Wage</b>	13175	13425	13828	14257	15326	15970	16672	17489
<b>AMs salary</b>	13175	13175	13175	13175	13306	15662	15991	16550
<b>MPs salary</b>	13175	13307	13440	14824	15017	15227	15501	15920

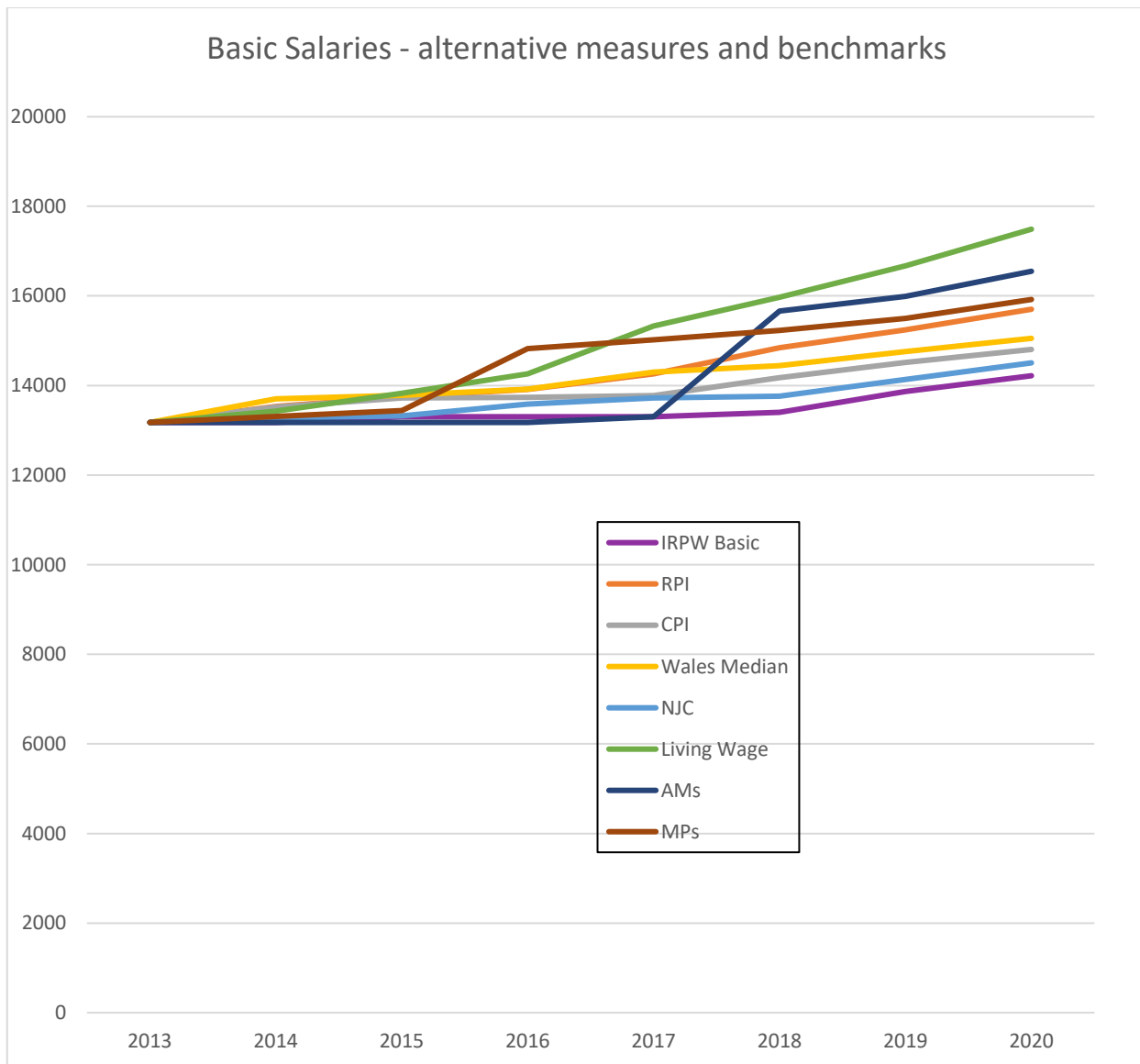
**Table 2 - percentage increases by alternative measures or benchmarks**

<b>Year</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>TOTAL 7 years compound</b>
<b>IRPW Basic</b>		<b>0.9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>7.9%</b>
<b>RPI</b>		2.7	1.6	1.2	2.5	4.1	2.7	3.0	19.2%
<b>CPI</b>		2.6	1.5	0.1	0.3	2.9	2.4	2.0	12.4%
<b>Wales Median</b>		4.0	0.6	1.0	2.7	1.0	2.2	2.0*	14.3%
<b>NJC SP27**</b>		0.7	0.4	2.0	1.0	1.0	2.0	2.6	10.0%
<b>Living Wage</b>		1.9	3.0	3.1	7.5	4.2	4.4	4.9	32.7%
<b>AMs salary</b>		0	0	0	1.0	17.7	2.1	3.5	25.6%
<b>MPs salary</b>		1.0	1.0	10.3	1.3	1.4	1.8	2.7	20.8%

\* estimated    \*\* SP27 changes to SP20 from 2019



**Graph 1:**



3.2 The Panel remains aware that the key 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 variations occur 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 the community that goes beyond defined remunerated hours. Many elected members report that their time spent 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 and 2019 the Panel continued its regular liaison with councillors and officers. Panel members met with the Chairs of Democratic Services Committees and their officers. 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 exceeds 3 days per week.
- 3.4 When making financial determinations for this Annual Report, the Panel has considered the progression of the variety of benchmark figures outlined above for the period from 2012 to 2019. 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. From 2017 the Panel began action to narrow this trend and limit the rate of erosion. Any adjustments in recent years 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 for 2020/21 of £350 a year which equates to 2.5%, a point midway between RPI and CPI. The proposed increase applies to the basic salary for members of principal councils in recognition of the duties expected of all elected members.
- 3.5 This salary shall be paid by each principal authority in Wales from 1 April 2020 to each of its elected members unless any individual member opts personally and in writing to receive a lower amount.

**Determination 1: The Basic Salary in 2020/21 for elected members of principal councils shall be £14,218 with effect from 1 April 2020.**

### Senior Salaries

- 3.6 Despite a slight increasing trend in the level of senior salary since 2012, (which has been lower than any measure of inflation), senior salaries are lower than they were ten years ago. The comparative measures are set out in the paragraph above relating to basic member salary over the same period (Table 1 and graph 1).
- 3.7 For the purposes of this analysis the mid-point (Group B) has been used where there are three rates in a salary band.

**Table 3 - IRPW Determinations on Senior Salaries 2012-20**

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
<b>Leader</b>	47500	47500	48000	48000	48000	48100	48300	49100	49450
<b>Deputy Ldr</b>	33460	33460	33500	33500	33500	33600	33800	34600	34950
<b>Exec Memb</b>	28780	28780	29000	29000	29000	29100	29300	30100	30450
<b>Chair/OpLdr</b>	21910	21910	22000	22000	22000	22100	22300	22568	22918
<b>Group Ldr</b>	16920	16920	17000	17000	17000	17100	17300	17568	17918
<b>Civic Ldr</b>	21375	21375	21500	21500	21500	21600	21800	22568	22918

**Graph 2:**



- 3.8 The limit on the number of senior salaries payable ('the cap') will remain in place. In 2020/21 the maximum number of senior salaries payable within each council will not be altered and will be as set out in Table 4 below.

**Table 4:** Maximum numbers of council membership eligible for payment of a senior salary

<b>Council</b>	<b>Number of councillors</b>	<b>Number of senior salaries</b>
<b>Group A (populations over 200,000)</b>		
Cardiff	75	19
Rhondda Cynon Taf	75	19
Swansea	72	19
<b>Group B (populations of 100,000 to 200,000)</b>		
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
<b>Group C (populations of up to 100,000)</b>		
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**

- 3.9 No additional increases will be paid to senior salary holders in 2020. Such members received an uplift in last year's annual report and senior salary holders will receive only the basic salary element increase.

## **The Executive**

- 3.10 In 2009 the Panel concluded that Executive members should be considered as working the equivalent of full time (around 40 hours per week) but not necessarily nine to five. Continued discussions with members and officers in recent years have reinforced this conclusion.
- 3.11 Senior salaries are set out in Determination 2.

## **Chairs of Committees**

- 3.12 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.
- 3.13 Where chairs of committees are paid, the remuneration is: £22,918.

## The Senior Salary Bands

**Determination 2: Senior salary levels in 2020/21 for members of principal councils shall be as set out in Table 5 with effect from 1 April 2020.**

**Table 5:** Basic salary and senior salaries payable to members of principal councils

<b>Basic salary (payable to all elected members) £14,218</b>			
	<b>Group A</b> Cardiff, Rhondda Cynon Taf, Swansea	<b>Group B</b> Bridgend, Caerphilly, Carmarthenshire, Conwy, Flintshire, Gwynedd, Newport, Neath Port Talbot, Pembrokeshire, Powys, Vale of Glamorgan, Wrexham	<b>Group C</b> Blaenau Gwent, Ceredigion, Denbighshire, Merthyr Tydfil, Monmouthshire, Torfaen, Isle of Anglesey
<b>Senior salaries (inclusive of basic salary)</b>			
<b>Band 1</b> Leader	£54,450	£49,450	£44,450
Deputy leader	£38,450	£34,950	£31,450
<b>Band 2</b> Executive members	£33,450	£30,450	£27,450
<b>Band 3</b> Committee chairs (if remunerated):		£22,918	
<b>Band 4</b> Leader of largest opposition group <sup>3</sup>		£22,918	
<b>Band 5</b> Leader of other political groups		£17,918	

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

## Table 5 notes:

- a. The Panel considers that 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 only by the £350 awarded to basic salary.
- 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.

## Payments to Civic Heads and Deputies (Civic Salaries)

- 3.14 The Panel had previously allowed councils to vary salaries of civic heads and deputy civic heads to reflect the specific responsibilities attached to the roles. However, councils strongly expressed to the Panel that elected members do not wish to make decisions that require Councils themselves such choices and options were removed in 2019. In the case of civic salaries, if paid, the payment for Band 3 is set at £22,918 for a civic head and at the Band 5 salary of £17,918 for a deputy civic head (Determination 3). A council may decide not to apply any civic salary to the posts of civic head and or deputy civic head.
- 3.15 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: Where paid, a Civic Head must be paid a Band 3 salary of £22,918 and, where paid, a Deputy Civic Head must be paid a Band 5 salary of £17,918 with effect from 1 April 2020.**

- 3.16 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 authorities' '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 10) needed to carry out their duties applies also in respect of deputy civic heads.
- 3.17 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.
- 3.18 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 decision 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.
- 3.19 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**

- 3.20 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 £22,918.

**Determination 4: Where appointed and if remunerated, a Presiding Member must be paid a Band 3 senior salary of £22,918.**

**Determination 5: The post of Deputy Presiding Member will not be remunerated.**

### **Key factors underpinning the Panel's determinations:**

- 3.21 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.
- 3.22 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 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:

**Determination 6:**

- a) An elected member must not be remunerated for more than one senior post within their 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.**

**Determination 7: 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. They remain eligible to claim travel and subsistence expenses and reimbursement of costs of care from the NPA or FRA.**

**Determination 8: 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. They remain eligible to claim travel and subsistence expenses and reimbursement of costs of care from the Community or Town Council.**

### **Supporting the work of local authority elected members**

- 3.23 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.
- 3.24 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 periodically 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 9 and 10 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.

- 3.25 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. Councils 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.
- 3.26 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.
- 3.27 As a result of their legitimate actions as a councillor an elected member's personal security may become significantly, adversely affected. In keeping with their existing responsibilities, it is the duty of Democratic Services Committees to fund or provide support necessary to enable a councillor to discharge their role reasonably and safely. This may require the funding of appropriate security measures to protect councillors from personal risk or significant threat. Risk assessment and liaison with relevant bodies such as the police and security services would normally inform selection of required provision.
- 3.28 For co-opted members the support requirements are set out in section 9 and determination 40.

**Determination 9: 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 10: 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

3.29 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 3.31.

**Determination 11: Principal Councils can apply for specific or additional senior salaries that do not fall within the current Remuneration Framework.**

3.30 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 percent<sup>4</sup> of the membership.
- b. Applications will have to be approved by the authority as a whole (unless this has been delegated within Standing Orders) prior to submission to the Panel.
- c. There must be clear evidence that the post or 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.

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<sup>4</sup> Local 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.

### 3.31 **Job Sharing Arrangements**

For members of an executive: Each “sharer” will be paid an appropriate proportion of the salary group as set out in Table 5.

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.

## **4 Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committees (JOSC)**

- 4.1 Little use has been made of the arrangements for JOSCs. Therefore, the Panel has decided to delete the payment from the framework. If, in future, a JOSC is formed by an individual council and it wishes to remunerate, it can apply using the arrangements contained in paragraphs 3.29 and 3.30. The current JOSCs in operation will continue without need for further confirmation.

## **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 12: 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 2013<sup>5</sup> 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 13: 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 14: When a senior salary holder is eligible for family absence, they will continue to receive the salary for the duration of the absence.**

**Determination 15: 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 16: 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 17: 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 18: The Council's schedule of remuneration must be amended to reflect the implication of the family absence.**

<sup>5</sup>[http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2013/2901/pdfs/wsi\\_20132901\\_mi.pdf](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 three 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 three corresponding National Park Authorities (NPAs). These have two main statutory purposes, to:

- protect and improve the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage;
- promote opportunities for the public to understand and enjoy the National Park's special features.

In addition to fulfilling the National Park's purposes, it is the duty of the National Park Authority to foster the economic and social wellbeing of local communities within the Park.

7.2 National Park Authorities comprise 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 three national parks is set out in Table 6.

**Table 6: Membership of Welsh National Park Authorities**

National Park Authority	Total Membership	Principal Council Members	Welsh Government appointed Members
<b>Brecon Beacons</b>	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
<b>Pembrokeshire Coast</b>	18	12: Pembrokeshire County Council – 12	6
<b>Snowdonia</b>	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 and or 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 Members of the Panel visited each of the three NPAs in 2019. As a result of discussions that took place at these visits, the Panel has decided that the time commitment on which the remuneration is based will be increased from 42 to 44 days. The salary for members of NPAs will increase to £4,010.
- 7.7 The Panel has also previously determined that the remuneration of a NPA Chair should be aligned to that part of a Band 3 senior salary received by a committee chair of a principal council. This salary will increase to £12,710.
- 7.8 The Panel has previously provided the option for a NPA to decide which of two salary levels the roles of deputy chair and up to two other committee Chairs can be remunerated at. During the visits members considered that this arrangement was no longer appropriate. The Panel has therefore decided that the optional arrangement is removed. The salary for the deputy chair and committee chairs will increase to £7,710 which is aligned to Band 5.

## **Additional Senior Salaries**

- 7.9 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.
- 7.10 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 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 or 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.

7.11 The Panel has made the following determinations:

**Determination 19: The basic salary for NPA ordinary members shall be £4,010 with effect from 1 April 2020.**

**Determination 20: The senior salary of the Chair of an NPA shall be £12,710 with effect from 1 April 2020**

**Determination 21: A NPA senior salary of £7,710 must be paid to a Deputy Chair where appointed.**

**Determination 22: Up to two committee chairs can be paid a salary of £7,710.**

**Determination 23: NPAs can apply for specific or additional senior salaries that do not fall within the current Remuneration Framework.**

**Determination 24: Members must not receive more than one NPA senior salary.**

**Determination 25: A NPA senior salary is paid inclusive of the NPA basic salary.**

**Determination 26: 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.**

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 three Fire and Rescue Services (FRAs) in Wales: Mid and West Wales, North Wales and South Wales 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 three FRAs is set out in Table 7.

**Table 7: 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**

- 8.6 As a result of the information obtained from the Panel's visits to the three FRAs in 2019 the time commitment on which the remuneration is based is increased from 20 to 22 days. The salary for members will increase to £2,005.
- 8.7 The Panel determined that the remuneration of a FRA Chair should be aligned to that part of a Band 3 senior salary received by a committee chair of a principal council. This salary will increase to £10,705.
- 8.8 The Panel determined that the remuneration of a FRA Deputy Chair will be aligned with the Band 5 senior salary for principal councils. This will increase to £5,705 and must be paid if the authority appoints a deputy chair.
- 8.9 The Panel has determined that up to two FRA committee chairs can be remunerated also aligned with Band 5. This will increase to £5,705.

## **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 or 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 27 or 28 cannot be used exclusively for this role.
- 8.12 The Panel has made the following determinations:

**Determination 27: The basic salary for FRA ordinary members shall be £2,005 with effect from 1 April 2020.**

**Determination 28: The senior salary of the Chair of an FRA shall be £10,705 with effect from 1 April 2020.**

**Determination 29: An FRA senior salary of £5,705 must be paid to the Deputy Chair where appointed.**

**Determination 30: Up to two Chairs of committees can be paid. This shall be paid at £5,705.**

**Determination 31: FRAs can apply for specific or additional senior salaries that do not fall within the current Remuneration Framework.**

**Determination 32: Members must not receive more than one FRA senior salary.**

**Determination 33: A FRA senior salary is paid inclusive of the FRA basic salary and must reflect significant and sustained responsibility.**

**Determination 34: 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.**

## 9. Payments to Co-opted Members of Principal Councils, National Park Authorities and Fire & Rescue Authorities <sup>6</sup>

- 9.1 The Panel has determined that a daily or 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 community or town 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.
- 9.2 The number of days in any one year for which co-opted members may be paid will reflect the work programme of the relevant committee. Recognising the important role that co-opted members have, payment must be made for travel and preparation time; committee and other types of meetings as well as other activities, including training, as set out in Determinations 36 to 39.
- 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 35: Principal councils, NPAs and FRAs must pay the following fees to co-opted members who have voting rights (Table 8).**

**Table 8: 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 36: 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 37: 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 38: The appropriate officer within the authority must 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 39: 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 40: 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.**

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<sup>6</sup> 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 all 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 set out 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 any individual from becoming and remaining a member of an authority or limit their ability to carry out the role.
- 10.3 Members, including co-opted members should be entitled to reimbursement of their care costs, up to the maximum of £403 per month, for activities that the individual council has designated official business or an approved duty which might include appropriate and reasonable preparation and travelling time. It is a matter for individual authorities to determine specific arrangements to implement this.
- 10.4 The Panel recognises the issues relating to the publication of this legitimate expense. This is reflected in change to the requirements for publication 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 41: 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 to enable 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 authorities' 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 councils, 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.
- 12.3 Expenses reimbursed to members of principal councils, by their principal council are exempt from Income Tax and employee NICs. Members of National Park Authorities and Fire and Rescue Authorities may be subject to other arrangements as determined by HMRC.
- 12.4 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.
- 12.5 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

- 12.6 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

- 12.7 All other claims for travel, including travel by taxi if this is the only, or most

appropriate, method of transport, 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

- 12.8 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.
- 12.9 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.
- 12.10 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.
- 12.11 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 The Panel has met with over 304 Councillors and Clerks representing 302 community and town councils in 17 meetings it held across Wales. The discussions re-confirmed the widely held view that the roles individual councils undertake varied significantly and in accordance with this wide variation, the responsibilities and accountabilities of councillors must also vary. Councillors managing income or expenditure of £1million 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 the 2018 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 9.

**Table 9: Community and Town Council Groupings**

<b>Community and Town Council Group</b>	<b>Income or Expenditure in 2019-2020 of:</b>
A	£200,000 and above
B	£30,000 - £199,999
C	Below £30,000

- 13.4 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.
- 13.5 Under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011, community and town councils are relevant authorities for the purpose of remuneration.
- 13.6 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 arrange for correct payments to be made to all individuals entitled to receive them.

- 13.7 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.
- 13.8 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.
- 13.9 The Panel considers that any member who has personal support needs or caring responsibilities should be enabled to fulfil their role. Therefore, the Panel is mandating reimbursement of cost of care for all members of community and town councils as set out in Determination 48.
- 13.10 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.
- 13.11 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 (Leader, Deputy Leader) without payment.
- 13.12 Table 10 sets out the actions that community and town councils must take annually in respect of each determination that follows.

### **Payments towards costs and expenses**

- 13.13 The Panel continues to mandate a payment of £150 as a contribution to costs and expenses for members of all community and town councils.
- 13.14 For the avoidance of doubt this determination now includes all councils. Receipts are not required for these payments.

**Determination 42: 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

- 13.15 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 of £500 each. Councils in Groups B and C can pay up to five responsibility payments (of up to £500) for specified roles.
- 13.16 In all cases, a Councillor can only have one payment of £500 regardless of how many senior roles they hold within their Council.

**Determination 43: 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 44: Community and town councils in Groups B or C can make an annual payment of up to £500 each to up to 5 members in recognition of specific responsibilities. This is in addition to the £150 payment for costs and expenses.**

- 13.17 Where a person is a member of more than one community or town 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

- 13.18 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 including travel by taxi if this is the only, or most appropriate, method of transport. Where a council does opt to pay travel and subsistence costs, the following determinations apply.

**Determination 45: Community and town councils can make payments to each of their members in respect of travel costs for attending approved duties.<sup>7</sup> 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 46: 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**

13.19 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 has been updated 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 the Average Actual Weekly Hours of Work for full-time workers (seasonally adjusted). Members must be able to demonstrate that the financial loss has been incurred. Each council has an option to pay compensation for financial loss and where it does the following determination applies.

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<sup>7</sup> 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 47: Community and town councils can pay financial loss compensation to each of their members, where such loss has occurred, for attending approved duties as follows:**

- **Up to £55.50 for each period not exceeding 4 hours**
- **Up to £110.00 for each period exceeding 4 hours but not exceeding 24 hours**

### **Reimbursement of the costs of care**

13.20 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.

13.21 All members should be entitled to reimbursement of their care costs, up to the maximum of £403 per month, for activities that the individual council has designated official business or an approved duty. This might include, for example, appropriate and reasonable preparation and, or, travelling time. It is a matter for individual councils to determine specific arrangements to implement this.

13.22 The Panel recognises the issues relating to the publication of this legitimate expense. This is reflected in the change in the requirement for publication 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 48: 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 to enable them to carry out their approved duties. Reimbursement shall only be made on production of receipts from the carer.**

### **Civic Head and Deputy Civic Head**

13.23 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 themselves for any cost associated with carrying out these duties. This requirement also applies in respect of deputy civic heads.

- 13.24 The Panel recognises the wide range of provision made for civic heads in respect of transport, secretarial support, charitable giving and clothing – we consider these to be the council’s civic budgets.
- 13.25 Funding decisions in relation to these civic budgets are not matters of personal remuneration for the post holder but relate to the funding required for the tasks and duties to be carried out. Councils remain free to set civic budgets at whatever levels they deem appropriate for the levels of civic leadership they have in place.
- 13.26 For the avoidance of doubt, costs 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. These should be covered by the civic budget.
- 13.27 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.
- 13.28 This is a personal payment to the individual and is entirely separate from covering the costs set out above.
- 13.29 The Panel has determined that the maximum payment to a chair or mayor of a community or town council is £1,500. The maximum payment to a deputy mayor or chair is £500.

**Determination 49: Community and town councils can provide a payment to the mayor or 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 50: Community and town councils can provide a payment to the deputy mayor or 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

- 13.30 Table 10 sets out each of the above determinations and if a decision is required by the council in respect of each one.
- 13.31 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.
- 13.32 Where a decision is required by the council, this should be done at the first meeting following receipt of the Annual Report.
- 13.33 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.
- 13.34 When payments take effect from is set out in paragraphs 13.38 to 13.40 below.
- 13.35 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 10**

<b>Determination Number</b>	<b>Is a decision required by council?</b>
<b>42</b> 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.	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.
<b>43</b> 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.
<b>44</b> Community and town councils in Groups B or C can make an annual payment of up to £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 – it is optional to pay it for up to 5 members and, if it is paid, the amount (up to £500) must be decided.
<b>45</b> Community and town councils can make payments to each of their members in respect of travel costs	Yes – the payment of travel costs is optional.

for attending approved duties.	
<b>46</b> 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.
<b>47</b> 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.
<b>48</b> 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.
<b>49</b> Community and town councils can provide a payment to the mayor or chair of the council up to a maximum of £1,500.	Yes – the payment to a Civic Head is optional.
<b>50</b> Community and town councils can provide a payment to the deputy mayor or deputy chair of the council up to a maximum amount of £500.	Yes – the payment to a Deputy Civic Head is optional.
<b>51</b> 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.	No - Members in receipt of a Band 1 or Band 2 senior salary from a principal council (that is Leader, Deputy Leader or Executive Member) can only receive travel and subsistence expenses and reimbursement of costs of care; if they are eligible to claim, and wish to do so.

13.36 All members are eligible to be paid the £150 as set out in Determination 42 from the start of the financial year; unless they are elected later in the financial year, in which case they are eligible for a pro-rata payment from that date.

13.37 Other amounts payable to members in recognition of specific responsibilities or as a civic head or deputy civic head as set out in Determinations 43,44, 48 and 49 are payable from the date when the member takes up the role during the financial year.

13.38 It is a matter for each council to make, and record, a policy decision in respect of:

- 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 or changes their role during the financial year.

13.39 Payments in respect of Determinations 43, 44, 45 and 46 are payable when the activity they relate to has taken place.

13.40 As stated in paragraph 13.8 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.

**Determination 51: 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.**

### **Publicity requirements**

13.41 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 still 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 authority<sup>8</sup> 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.

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<sup>8</sup> 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 Head of Paid Service 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. However, this function ceases on 31 March 2020.
- 15.2 The Welsh Government issued amended guidance to the Panel which can be found at <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-06/local-government-regulations-guidance-for-the-independent-remuneration-panel.pdf>. This sets the basis on which the Panel will carry out the function contained in the legislation.
- 15.3 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.

- 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 function is significantly different from its statutory responsibilities in relation to members' remuneration. However, 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

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.

### Changes to the salaries of chief officers of principal councils – Panel decisions 2019

Letters issued to the Local Authorities notifying them of the Panel decision can be found on the Panel’s website <https://gov.wales/independent-remuneration-panel-wales>

Name of Local Authority	Proposal	Panel decision
Carmarthenshire County Council	Recruitment to the post of Head of Paid Service	Approved
Pembrokeshire County Council	Remuneration of a Chief Officer – Head of Procurement Services	Approved
Swansea Council	Arrangements for an interim Head of Paid Service	Approved
Isle of Anglesey County Council	Review of Senior Management arrangements in Anglesey County Council	Approved
Conwy County Borough Council	Review of Pay and Grading Structure – Chief Officers, Conwy County Borough Council	Approved
Denbighshire County Council	Review of Senior Leadership Structure - Head of Finance and the Head of Communication and Housing	Approved
Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service	Chief Officer	Approved
Bridgend County Council	Head of Finance	Approved
Pembrokeshire County	Head of Performance and	Approved

Council	Community	
Pembrokeshire County Council	Head of Finance and Business Services	Approved
Caerphilly	Head of Paid Service	Approved

## Annex 1: The Panel's Determinations for 2020/21

Principal Councils	
1.	Basic salary in 2020/21 for elected members of principal councils shall be £14,218 with effect from 1 April 2020.
2.	Senior salary levels in 2020/21 for members of principal councils shall be as set out in Table 5 with effect from 1 April 2020.
3.	Where paid, a civic head must be paid a Band 3 salary of £22,918 and, where paid, a deputy civic head must be paid a Band 5 salary of £17,918 with effect from 1 April 2020.
4.	Where appointed and if remunerated, a presiding member must be paid a Band 3 senior salary of £22,918.
5.	The post of deputy presiding member will not be remunerated.
6.	<p>a) An elected member must not be remunerated for more than one senior post within their authority.</p> <p>b) An elected member must not be paid a senior salary and a civic salary.</p> <p>c) All senior and civic salaries are paid inclusive of basic salary.</p> <p>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.</p>
7.	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. They remain eligible to claim travel and subsistence expenses and reimbursement of costs of care from the NPA or FRA.
8.	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. They remain eligible to claim travel and subsistence expenses and reimbursement of costs of care from the Community or Town Council.
9.	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.

10.	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.
<b>Specific or Additional Senior Salaries</b>	
11.	Principal Councils can apply for specific or additional senior salaries that do not fall within the current Remuneration Framework.
<b>Local Government Pension Scheme</b>	
12.	The entitlement to join the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) shall apply to all eligible elected members of principal councils.
<b>Family Absence</b>	
13.	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.
14.	When a senior salary holder is eligible for family absence, they will continue to receive the salary for the duration of the absence.
15.	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.
16.	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.
17.	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.
18.	The Council's schedule of remuneration must be amended to reflect the implication of the family absence.
<b>National Park Authorities</b>	
19.	The basic salary for NPA ordinary members shall be £4,010 with effect from 1 April 2020.
20.	The senior salary of the Chair of a NPA shall be £12,710 with effect from 1 April 2020.

21.	A NPA senior salary of £7,710 must be paid to a Deputy Chair where appointed.
22.	Up to two Committee Chairs can be paid a salary of £7,710.
23.	NPAs can apply for specific or additional senior salaries that do not fall within the current Remuneration Framework.
24.	Members must not receive more than one NPA senior salary.
25.	A NPA senior salary is paid inclusive of the NPA basic salary.
26.	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.
<b>Fire and Rescue Authorities</b>	
27.	The basic salary for FRA ordinary members shall be £2,005.
28.	The senior salary of the chair of a FRA shall be £10,705.
29.	A FRA senior salary of £5,705 must be paid to the Deputy Chair where appointed.
30.	Up to two Chairs of Committees can be paid. This shall be paid at £5,705.
31.	FRAs can apply for specific or additional senior salaries that do not fall within the current Remuneration Framework.
32.	Members must not receive more than one FRA senior salary.
33.	A FRA senior salary is paid inclusive of the FRA basic salary and must reflect significant and sustained responsibility.
34.	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.
<b>Co-opted Members</b>	
35.	Principal councils, NPAs and FRAs must pay the fees to co-opted members (who have voting rights) as set out in Table 8.
36.	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.
37.	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).

38.	The appropriate officer within the authority must 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.
39.	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.
40.	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.
<b>Reimbursement of Costs of Care</b>	
41.	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.
<b>Community and Town Councils</b>	
42.	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.
43.	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.
44.	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.
45.	Community and Town councils can make payments to each of their members in respect of travel costs for attending approved duties. <sup>9</sup> 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"> <li>• 45p per mile up to 10,000 miles in the year.</li> <li>• 25p per mile over 10,000 miles.</li> <li>• 5p per mile per passenger carried on authority business.</li> <li>• 24p per mile for private motor cycles.</li> <li>• 20p per mile for bicycles.</li> </ul>

46.	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £28 per 24-hour period allowance for meals, including breakfast where not provided.</li> <li>• £200 – London overnight.</li> <li>• £95 – elsewhere overnight.</li> <li>• £30 – staying with friends and or family overnight.</li> </ul>
47.	<p>Community and Town councils can pay financial loss compensation to each of their members, where such loss has occurred, for attending approved duties as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Up to £55.50 for each period not exceeding 4 hours.</li> <li>• Up to £110.00 for each period exceeding 4 hours but not exceeding 24 hours.</li> </ul>
48.	<p>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 to enable them to carry out their approved duties. Reimbursement shall only be made on production of receipts from the carer.</p>
49.	<p>Community and Town councils can provide a payment to the mayor or 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.</p>
50.	<p>Community and Town councils can provide a payment to the deputy mayor or 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.</p>
51.	<p>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.</p>

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<sup>9</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 31 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 or 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 or 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 within or outside the boundary 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 can 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 **all relevant authorities** 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, travel and subsistence allowances.
  - the total expenditure on reimbursement of cost of care.
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 the authority or a committee chair 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 that relevant authorities should only publish the total amount reimbursed during the year. It is a matter for each authority to determine its response to any Freedom of Information requests it receives. However, it is not intended that details of individual claims should be disclosed.

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

## Annex 5: Summary of new and updated determinations contained in this report

The numbers of most of the determinations contained within this report have changed from previous reports.

To assist authorities, this table sets out the determinations in this report which are entirely new or have been updated.

<b>Principal Councils</b>	
Determination 1: This Determination has been updated	Basic salary in 2020/21 for elected members of principal councils shall be £14,218 with effect from 1 April 2020.
Determination 2: The amounts payable under this Determination have been updated	Senior salary levels in 2020/21 for members of principal councils shall be as set out in Table 5 with effect from 1 April 2020.
Determination 3: This Determination has been updated	Where paid, a civic head must be paid a Band 3 salary of £22,918 and where paid a deputy civic head must be paid a Band 5 salary of £17,918 with effect from 1 April 2020.
Determination 4: This Determination has been updated	Where appointed and if remunerated, a presiding member must be paid a Band 3 senior salary of £22,918.
Determination 7: This Determination has been updated	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. They remain eligible to claim travel and subsistence expenses and reimbursement of costs of care from the NPA or FRA.
Determination 8: This Determination has been updated	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. They remain eligible to claim travel and subsistence expenses and reimbursement of costs of care from the Community or Town Council.
<b>National Park Authorities</b>	
Determination 19: This Determination has been updated	The basic salary for NPA ordinary members shall be £4,010 with effect from 1 April 2020.
Determination 20: This Determination has been updated	The senior salary of the Chair of a NPA shall be £12,710 with effect from 1 April 2020.
Determination 21: This Determination has been updated	A NPA senior salary of £7,710 must be paid to a Deputy Chair where appointed.
Determination 22: This is a new Determination	Up to two Committee Chairs can be paid a salary of £7,710.
<b>Fire and Rescue Authorities</b>	
Determination 27: This Determination has been updated	The basic salary for FRA ordinary members shall be £2,005.
Determination 28: This Determination has been updated	The senior salary of the Chair of a FRA shall be £10,705.

Determination 29: This Determination has been updated	A FRA senior salary of £5,705 must be paid to the Deputy Chair where appointed.
Determination 30: This is a new Determination	Up to two Chairs of Committees can be paid. This shall be paid at £5,705.
<b>Community and Town Councils</b>	
Determination 47: This Determination has been updated	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 £55.00 for each period not exceeding 4 hours.  - Up to £110.00 for each period exceeding 4 hours but not exceeding 24 hours.

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

**<http://irpw.gov.wales>**

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# Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales

## Draft Supplementary Report

The Principles relating to the Reimbursement  
of Costs of Care

February 2020

Mae'r ddogfen yma hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg.  
This document is also available in Welsh.

## **Draft Supplementary Report**

### **The Principles in respect of the Reimbursement of Costs of Care (RoCoC)**

#### **Introduction**

The Panel's core principles have been a fundamental feature of its work since it was established and are contained in each Annual Report. These include:

#### **Remuneration**

1.3 The Framework provides for payment to members of relevant 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 relevant 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.

The provision of financial support for members with care responsibilities or personal needs is an important factor in improving and sustaining the diversity of membership. It is essential that there is clarity in the availability of and the access to this support. We therefore propose to supplement our core principles with additions specifically relating to the costs of care. This draft Supplementary Report sets out our proposals for consultation.

#### **The purpose is:**

To enable all members and co-opted members of relevant authorities to carry out their duties effectively

#### **The Relevant Authorities are:**

22 Local Authorities, 735 Town and Community Councils, 3 National Park and 3 Fire and Rescue Authorities



The Minimum Authorities should do		How this could be done
1 Be clear who it is for	<p>1.1 Members with primary caring responsibilities for a child or adult and or personal support needs where these are not covered by statutory or other provision.</p> <p>1.2 For personal support. This might also include a short term or recent condition not covered by the Equality Act 2010, access to work, Personal Payments, insurance or other provision.</p>	Democratic Services Committees and or Staff to review members' needs annually and when circumstances change
2 Raise Awareness	2.1 Ensure potential candidates, candidates and current members are aware that RoCoC is available to them should their current or future circumstances require.	Ensure clear and easily found information is available on website and in election and appointment materials, at Shadowing and at induction and in the members' "handbook". Signpost to IRPW <a href="#">Payments to Councillors</a> leaflets.
3 Promote a Positive Culture	3.1 Ensure all members understand the reason for RoCoC and support and encourage others to claim where needed.	Encouragement within and across all parties of Relevant Authorities to support members to claim. Agree not to advertise or make public individual decisions not to claim.
4 Set out the approved duties for which RoCoC can be claimed	<p>4.1 <b>Meetings</b> – formal (those called by the Authority) and those necessary to members' work (to deal with constituency but not party issues) and personal development (training, and appraisals.)</p> <p>4.2 <b>Travel</b> – in connection with meetings.</p> <p>4.3 <b>Preparation</b> – reading and administration are part of a member's role. Some meetings and committees require large amounts of reading, analysis or drafting before or after a meeting.</p> <p>4.4 Senior salary holders with additional duties may have higher costs.</p>	Approved duties are usually a matter of fact. Interpretation of the IRPW Regulations are set out in the Annual Report.  "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."

<p>5 Be flexible about the types of care that can be claimed</p>	<p>5.1 Members should not be “out of pocket”</p> <p>5.2 Models of care and needs vary</p> <p>5.3 Members may use a combination of several care options</p> <p>5.4 Patterns of care may alter over the civic and academic year</p> <p>5.5 Not all care is based on hourly (or part hourly) rates</p> <p>5.6 Where a whole session must be paid for, this must be reimbursed even where the care need is only for part of a session</p> <p>5.7 Members may need to:</p> <p>5.7.1 book and pay for sessions in advance</p> <p>5.7.2 commit to a block contract: week, month or term</p> <p>5.7.3 pay for sessions cancelled at short notice</p> <p>5.8 Where care need straddles two sessions both should be reimbursed</p>	
<p>6 Have a simple claim process</p>	<p>6.1 Members should know how to claim.</p> <p>6.2 The claim process should be clear, proportionate and auditable.</p>	<p>Check claim at members’ appraisals and regular review</p> <p>Flexibility to accept paperless invoices</p> <p>On line form</p> <p>Same or similar form to travel costs claim</p>
<p>7 Comply with IRPW Publication rules</p>	<p>7.1 The IRPW Framework states:</p> <p>“In respect of the publication of the reimbursement of the costs of care, the Panel has decided that relevant authorities should only publish the total amount reimbursed during the year. It is a matter for each authority to determine its response to any Freedom of Information requests it receives. However, it is not intended that details of individual claims should be disclosed.”</p>	

# Agenda Item 6

Executive Committee and Council only

Date signed off by the Monitoring Officer: N/A

Date signed off by the Section 151 Officer: N/A

Committee: **Democratic Services**  
Date of Meeting: **16<sup>th</sup> March, 2020**  
Report Subject: **Annual Report of Head of Democratic Services**  
Portfolio Holder: **Executive Member Corporate / Leader of the Council**  
Report Submitted by: **Bernadette Elias, Head of Governance and Partnerships**

Reporting Pathway								
Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Executive Committee	Council	Other (please state)
w/c 17/02/20	25/2/20			16/03/20			26/03/10	

## 1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 To present the 2019/20 annual report of the Head of Democratic Services.

## 2. Scope and Background

2.1 The annual report of the Head of Democratic Services (HDS) outlines the comprehensive range of arrangements in place to support Elected Members to support them to fulfil their roles.

## 3. Options for Recommendation

That the Democratic Services Committee:

### 3.1 Option One

Considers the report and recommends it to Council for approval.

### 3.2 Option Two

Considers the report and makes specific recommendations to Council for consideration prior to approval.

## 4. Evidence of how does this topic supports the achievement of the Corporate Plan / Statutory Responsibilities / Blaenau Gwent Well-being Plan

The role of HDS is set out in the Council's Constitution.

## 5. Implications Against Each Option

### 5.1 *Impact on Budget (short and long term impact)*

The Council must provide the HDS with resources that, in its opinion, are sufficient to allow the functions of the role set out in the Measure to be discharged.

5.1.2 The Member Development budget is £5,880.

## 5.2 ***Risk including Mitigating Actions***

There are potential risks if the levels of support arrangements for Members are deemed by Council not to be sufficient. The Democratic Services Committee receives regular monitoring reports on democratic arrangements and is able to make recommendations to Council.

## 5.3 ***Legal***

The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 requires the Council to designate an officer to the post of Head of Democratic Services (HDS). The role is set out in the Council's Constitution as a statutory function.

## 5.4 ***Human Resources***

5.4.1 The Head of Governance and Partnerships is the appointed Head of Democratic Services.

The role of the HDS is to:

- carry out the Local Authority's function of designated Head of Democratic Services;
- keep under review the adequacy of provision of staff, accommodation and other resources made available to discharge the democratic services functions of the Authority; and
- make reports, at least annually, to the full Council in relation to these matters.

5.4.2 The HDS is able to make recommendations including with regard to the appointment, organisation and management of staff discharging democratic functions. The HDS may arrange for the discharge of democratic functions by staff and can delegate functions to staff as they feel appropriate.

## 6. **Supporting Evidence**

6.1 A summary of the current support for Elected Members is provided below.

6.2 The Council has been successful in achieving **level 1 of the Welsh Local Government (WLGA) Charter award for Member development and support**, the WLGA presented the award at full Council in November 2018. The feedback on the submission was very positive, and the Council was encouraged to work towards applying for the advanced level charter in future. Initial work to consider the areas for development required to submit an application for the advanced level charter has recently started.

6.3 Council has agreed a **Personal Development Review (PDR)/ Competency Framework**. The PDRs have been undertaken with all senior responsibility salary holders. The sessions are held with an external facilitator and the HDS, and there continues to be very positive feedback from the Members involved in the externally facilitated sessions. The HDS also undertakes a one to one follow up session with each Member to discuss their personal

action plan and discuss any other support that they feel would be of value to them.

- 6.4 As part of the arrangements agreed by Council, Members who are not in receipt of a SRA are offered the opportunity for a PDR meeting, facilitated via Group. Members who have expressed an interest will participate in a session during 2020.
- 6.5 **Councillor Skills: E-Learning for Members in Wales** Work is currently being undertaken in conjunction with the NHS, Welsh Local Government Association and all local authorities across Wales to upgrade the All Wales Academy e-learning platform in order that it continues to be fit for purpose with particular emphasis on improving accessibility and content.
- 6.6 As part of this process each local authority has agreed to create one learning module suitable for use by all Members in Wales – Blaenau Gwent had chosen to develop the 'Managing Stress and Coping with Bullying and Harassment Module'. The deadline for completion of all modules is September 2020 and the project will result in 22 high quality accessible e-learning modules being available for Members across Wales to share.
- 6.7 **A Member training and development programme** is in place. The programme reflects key areas for support, including those identified by Members (e.g. through the PDR process), topics identified from the forward work programmes of the Scrutiny committees and support related to training required for specific roles on committee e.g. Planning.
- 6.8 The Constitution includes **role descriptions** for Members. A Member **Constitutional Working Group** has been established supported by relevant officers.
- 6.9 **A Mentoring Scheme for Members** is established. Members self-select and participate in the scheme, and a number of Members have taken the opportunity to be involved. On-going advice and guidance from the HDS has been provided to support the Mentoring scheme. The HDS is planning to gain feedback from Members who have participated during 2020 to inform any review or proposed amendments to the scheme.
- 6.9.1 **Support arrangements for Members appointed who sit on outside bodies** have been established and implemented. This area of support had been identified by Members. Reports from Members who sit on outside bodies now form part of the Council agenda on a periodic basis. Feedback from Members who have participated in the arrangement suggests that they feel there is value in giving Members the opportunity to report back to Council. The support arrangements also include the identification of a link officer for Members aligned to their role on outside bodies.
- 6.9.2 The Council has undertaken a review of its **Member Champion** roles. Lead support officers have been identified to support each of the Champions and

arrangements are in place to provide support when working within these roles.

- 6.10 The Member Champions are identified at the Annual General Meeting. For 2019/20 they were:
- Community Safety
  - Children & Young People
  - Older Persons
  - Equalities & Diversity
  - Armed Forces
  - Natural Environment & Biodiversity
  - Digital Champion
- 6.11 There is also an identified lead member for safeguarding:
- Executive Member - Social Services
- 6.12 **An electronic Member library** has been established. This dedicated resource is available on the intranet, and Members have been notified that the site is now 'live'. The database includes key documentation and information which is regularly updated to include resources from the Member Development and Training sessions.
- 6.13 A review of the **supporting guidance available for Scrutiny Members, the Executive and Officers** is undertaken on an annual basis.
- 6.14 The HDS role includes responsibility for the **scrutiny function**. Development. Support arrangements for the scrutiny function include:
- Specific training for Chairs and Vice Chairs and Scrutiny Members, including externally facilitated sessions;
  - Arrangements to promote scrutiny committee meetings via social media to raise awareness of the work of scrutiny;
  - Ongoing discussions to further engage the Youth Forum in scrutiny,
  - Exploring ways to raise awareness of the scrutiny function with other forums, e.g. the Citizens Panel;
  - Procedures to support the function including forward work programme development, agenda setting meetings, pre meetings and ongoing evaluation. Some elements of these arrangements have been noted as areas of good practice and used in other local authorities;
  - Meetings of the Chairs and Vice Chairs of Scrutiny; and
  - An action plan monitored via Democratic Services Committee.
- 6.15 The Council is actively involved in the **Joint Scrutiny Committee of the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal (CCRCD)**. Each of the 10 local authorities is represented on the Committee. The Chair of Regeneration Scrutiny Committee is the Blaenau Gwent representative on the Joint Committee.

- 6.16 An '**Essential Skills**' ICT short programme has been delivered. The programme focussed on the use of Microsoft Outlook and introductory level Word. The sessions were offered to the Members who had requested some additional support. 3 sessions were delivered in-house in February 2019 by the Council's Digital Inclusion Officer supported by Democratic Services. 14 Members attended and the sessions and there was some positive feedback provided. Further sessions will now need to be arranged during 2020/21 to support the roll out of windows 10. The Chief Officer Commercial also provided three 'drop in' sessions for Members regarding ICT arrangements during September in order to record the specific concerns and issues being experienced by members with regards to ICT.
- 6.17 As part of the modernising agenda, a new electronic agenda management system has been procured and went live in October 2019. The **Modern.gov System** is used by 21 Local Authorities and other organisations such Brecon Beacon National Park. It offers broader functionality and user friendly on-line access to information such as minutes and agendas. An 'app' has also been procured for Member and officers that will enable agendas to be viewed and annotated on tablets/I Pads. A training session for Members was held prior to the 'go live' date and ongoing support has been provided by Democratic Services as and when required.
- 6.18 The arrangements to support **the agenda management of committees** is in place. In accordance with requirements under the Local Government Measure, each committee has considered the **timings of meetings** to establish Members preference, and this has informed the timings of the current cycle of meetings.
- 6.19 Work to support the production of the **Annual Reports of Members** continues to be provided. In 2019, 14 reports were produced by Members and published on the Council Website.
- 6.20 Additional information and data is provided in the Democratic and Scrutiny Arrangements Action Plan report presented to the committee as part of the work programme.
- 6.2 ***Expected outcome for the public***
- 6.2.1 By providing a democratic function that has been identified as having sufficient support and resources means that Elected Members are provided with the support that they need to operate effectively, which in turn should support them in their role with the community.
- 6.3 ***Involvement (consultation, engagement, participation)***
- 6.3.1 Opportunities to maximise engagement in the range of training and support arrangements by Members will assist them in meeting future demands of their roles. PDR's are offered to all Members.

#### 6.4 ***Thinking for the Long term (forward planning)***

6.4.1 The Member support arrangements look to the longer term and in recognition of the increasing complexity of the roles Members undertake.

#### 6.5 ***Preventative focus***

6.5.1 The content of the member development programme is aimed to give Members a solid grounding and prepare them to meet their roles and responsibilities for the future.

The role of HDS is to undertake a review of the support provided to members and identify if further support is required in order to prevent ineffective delivery of the democratic function.

#### 6.6 ***Collaboration / partnership working***

6.6.1 The training and development programme for Members includes elements of both internal and external support. Training is offered on a regional basis in some instances e.g. Education Achievement Service, Joint Scrutiny Committee of the CCRCD.

#### 6.7 ***Integration (across service areas)***

6.7.1 All Council services are involved with the democratic functions of the Council. Forward Work Programmes and agendas are developed jointly with Members and Officers.

#### 6.8 ***EqIA (screening and identifying if full impact assessment is needed)***

6.8.1 The Member development programme has been subject to an Equality impact assessment screening with no adverse impact on the protected characteristics identified.

6.8.2 Language preference for Members has been established.

#### 7. **Monitoring Arrangements**

The HDS presents an annual report to Democratic services and Council. Regular monitoring reports on the democratic arrangements are also presented as part of the committee forward work programme.

#### **Background Documents /Electronic Links**

- None