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Blaenau Gwent

Our Ref./Ein Cyf.
Your Ref./Eich Cyf.
Contact:/Cysylltwch â: Democratic Services

THIS IS A MEETING WHICH THE PUBLIC ARE ENTITLED TO ATTEND

13th September 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Democratic Services Committee will be held in Hybrid Meeting to be held virtually via MS Teams or in The Sir Williams Firth Room, General Offices, Steelworks Road, Ebbw Vale on Monday, 18th September, 2023 at 11.00 am.

Yours faithfully

Damien McCann
Interim Chief Executive

AGENDA

Pages

1. SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION

You are welcome to use Welsh at the meeting, a minimum notice period of 3 working days is required should you wish to do so. A simultaneous translation will be provided if requested.

2. APOLOGIES

To receive.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

To consider any declarations of interest and dispensations received.

4. DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE

3 - 6

To receive the decisions of the Democratic Services Committee held on 13th July, 2023.

(Please note the decisions are submitted for points of accuracy only).

5. STATEMENT OF PAYMENTS MADE TO MEMBERS IN 2022/2023

7 - 14

To consider the report of the Head of Organisational Development.

To: Councillor J. Hill (Chair)
Councillor E. Jones (Vice-Chair)
Councillor J. C. Morgan
Councillor C. Bainton
Councillor D. Bevan
Councillor G. A. Davies
Councillor L. Parsons
Councillor C. Smith
Councillor L. Winnett

All other Members (for information)
Interim Chief Executive
Chief Officers

COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT

**REPORT TO: THE CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE
DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**SUBJECT: DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE –
13TH JULY, 2023**

REPORT OF: DEMOCRATIC OFFICER

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR J. HILL (CHAIR)

Councillors C. Bainton
D. Bevan
G. Davies
E. Jones
J.C. Morgan
L. Parsons
C. Smith
L. Winnett

ALSO: Scrutiny Chairs & Vice-Chairs

Vice-Chair of Corporate & Performance Scrutiny
Committee

Councillor J. Thomas

Chair of Partnerships Scrutiny Committee

Councillor W. Hodgins

Chair of People Scrutiny Committee

Councillor T. Smith

Vice-Chair of Places Scrutiny Committee

Councillor R. Leadbeater

**AND: Chief Officer Resources
Service Manager Performance & Democratic
Service Manager Policy & Partnerships
Policy Officer**

ITEM	SUBJECT	ACTION
No. 1	<p><u>SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION</u></p> <p>It was noted that no requests had been received for the simultaneous translation service.</p>	
No. 2	<p><u>APOLOGIES</u></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from:-</p> <p>Councillors J. Wilkins and M. Cross Chief Officer Customer & Commercial Head of Democratic Services, Governance & Partnerships Head of Organisational Development Organisational Development Manager</p>	
No. 3	<p><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS</u></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest or dispensations reported.</p>	
No. 4	<p><u>DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the Minutes of the meeting held on 27th March, 2023.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED that the Minutes be received as a true record of proceedings.</p>	
No. 5	<p><u>PROPOSED COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2023/2024</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the proposed Forward Work Programme 2023/2024.</p>	

	<p>The Committee AGREED that the report be accepted and Option 1 be endorsed, namely that the Forward Work Programme 2023/2024 be agreed.</p>	
No. 6	<p><u>SCHEDULE OF MEMBERS REMUNERATION 2023/2024</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Organisational Development.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED that the report be accepted and Option 1 be endorsed, namely that the Schedule of Members Remuneration 2023/2024 be agreed and published.</p>	
No. 7	<p><u>BLAENAU GWENT ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATION STRATEGY</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Democratic Services, Governance and Partnerships.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED that the report be accepted and Option 1 be endorsed, namely that the planning and consultation process for a new Engagement & Participation Strategy be noted and a joint Corporate Overview & Performance Scrutiny and Democratic Services Committees Workshop on 26th July, 2023 be agreed to shape development of the initial Strategy.</p>	
No. 8	<p><u>TIME OF FUTURE MEETINGS</u></p> <p>Members considered the time of future Democratic Services Committee meetings.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED that all future Democratic Services Committees commence at 10.00 a.m.</p>	

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Agenda Item 5

Cabinet and Council only

Date signed off by the Monitoring Officer: N/A

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

Committee: **Special Democratic Services Committee**
Date of Meeting: **18th September, 2023**
Report Subject: **Statement of Payments Made to Members in 2022/2023**
Portfolio Holder: **Councillor Stephen Thomas, Leader of the Council/
Cabinet Member – Corporate Overview & Performance**
Report Submitted by: **Andrea J Prosser, Head of Organisational Development**

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

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.2 To consider and agree the publication of the Statement of Payments made to Members for 2022/2023.

2. Scope and Background

- 2.1 The report identifies the reporting requirements for the publication of the annual schedule of payments made to members for 2022/23 to comply with part 8 (sections 141 to 160) and schedules 2 and 3 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 and the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (IRPW) regulations.
- 2.2 Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, in compliance with Part 8 (sections 141 to 160) and schedules 2 and 3 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 and the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (IRPW) regulations, is required to produce annually a schedule of payments it has made to its members and co-opted members (Section 7).
- 2.3 As a result of the Local Government Elections in May 2022 the schedule is in two parts, appendix 1a - returning members and newly elected members and appendix 1b for members who were not successfully elected in 2022.

3. Options for Recommendation

- 3.1 Option 1 (***preferred option***) – to publish Statement of Payments Made to Members during 2022/23 in compliance with relevant legislation.
- 3.2 Option 2 – not to publish Statement of Payments Made to Members for 2022/23.

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

4.1 In publishing the Statement of Payments to Members annually, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council is complying with its statutory responsibilities under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 and the requirements of the IRPW.

5. **Implications Against Each Option**

5.1 *Impact Upon Budget*

5.1.1 **Option 1 – Publication of Statement of Payments to Members**

The estimated cost of publication is £200 this includes the Welsh language translation. There are no other financial implications resulting directly from this report.

The payments made by Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council to Members during 2022/23 totalled £709,579.65 and in addition, pension contributions for those members of the local government pension scheme were £53,060.20. Payments to co-opted Members totalled £4903.

5.1.2 **Option 2 – Not to publish the Statement of Payments to Members**

There would be no costs associated with this option.

5.2 *Risk*

5.2.1 **Option 1 - Publication of Statement of Payments to Members**

No significant risks identified for the Council with this option.

5.2.2 **Option 2 – Not to publish the Statement of Payments to Members**

Not publishing the statement would leave the Council non-compliant with Part 8 (sections 141 to 160) and schedules 2 and 3 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 and the IRPW and would result in reputational damage for the Council.

To mitigate this risk Option 1 is recommended.

5.3 *Legal*

5.3.1 **Option 1 - Publication of Statement of Payments to Members**

This option ensures the Council complies with statutory responsibilities.

5.3.2 **Option 2 – Not to publish the Statement of Payments to Members**

This would result in non-compliance with statutory requirements.

5.4 *Human Resources*

5.4.1 There are no Human Resources implications that impact upon the report other than the time required to produce the Statement of Payments to Members.

6. **Supporting Evidence**

6.1 *Performance Information and Data*

6.1.1 The Schedule must be in accord with the determinations of the IRPW and should contain the following information:

- Basic Salary
- Senior Salary
- Co-opted Member Fee
- Reimbursement of Cost of Care
- Travel Allowance
- Subsistence Allowance
- Pension Contributions
- Payments received from other Public Bodies

The above are reported on a gross basis but are subject to relevant tax, national insurance regulations and pension contributions.

6.1.2 For 2022/23 the format of the Statement has been prescribed by the IRPW to ensure consistency of reporting across organisations.

6.1.3 This schedule should be published in the local authority area and on the Council's website by 30th September 2023 and submitted to IRPW.

6.1.4 The payments made by Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council to Members during 2022/23 totalled £709,579.65 and in addition, pension contributions were made equalling £53,060.20. Payments to co-opted Members totalled £4903.

6.2 *Expected Outcome for the public*

Publication provides taxpayers and citizens with information about the remuneration of their elected members.

6.3 *Involvement (consultation, engagement, participation)*

6.3.1 The IRPW consulted with Councils and elected members prior to determining remuneration levels to be paid, this included visiting all 22 Welsh councils.

6.3.2 The Statement of Payments will be published in a local newspaper and on the Councils website.

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

It is a requirement that similar information is published on an annual basis.

6.5 *Preventative focus*

Not relevant to this report.

6.6 *Collaboration / partnership working*

Not relevant to this report.

6.7 *Integration (across service areas)*

Not relevant to this report.

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

Not relevant to this report.

7. **Monitoring Arrangements**

7.1

Compliance with requirements are monitored by the IRPW.

Background Documents /Electronic Links

- *Appendix 1a – Statement of Payments made to new and returning Members for 2022/23*

- *Appendix 1b – Statement of Payments made to not returning Members for 2022/23*

- *Annual Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales 2022/23*
<https://gov.wales/independent-remuneration-panel-wales-annual-report-2022-2023-html>

Statement of Payments Made to Members of BLAENAU GWENT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL in 2022/23
Datganiad o Daliadau a Wnaed i Aelodau CYNGOR BWRDEISTREF SIROL BLAENAU GWENT yn 2022/23

Newly Elected and Returning Members

Councillor Name	Role or Title	Basic Salary	Senior Salary - Executive Members ¹	Civic Salary	% Opted to forgo	Travel allowance	Subsistence allowance	Reimbursement of care costs ²	Total	Pension Contributions	Payments from other public bodies wrth cyrff cyhoeddus eraill	Taliadau oddi
Enw'r Cynghorydd	Swyddogaeth neu Deitl	Cyflog Sylfaenol	Cyflog Uwch - Aelodau'r Gweithrediaeth ¹	Cyflog Dinesgig ¹	%Wedi dewis iildio	Costau Teithio	Costau Cynhaliaeth	Ad-daliadau costau gofal ²	Cyfanswm	Cyfraniadau Pensiwn	Name of Public body Enw'r corff	Amount Paid Swm a Delir
Carl Bainton	Elected Member	15,038.71							15,038.71	1,029.00		
Christopher Smith	Elected Member to 26/05/2022 / Presiding Member from 27/05/2022	812.90	21,671.49		1.77%				22,484.39			
David Davies	Deputy Leader to 26/05/2022 / Elected Member from 27/05/2022	14,225.81	5,145.87		1.69%				19,371.68	4,665.59		
David Wilkshire	Elected Member	16,545.03							16,545.03			
Dean Woods	Elected Member	15,038.71							15,038.71			
Derrick Bevan	Elected Member	16,545.03			0.80%				16,545.03			
Diane Rowberry	Elected Member	15,038.71							15,038.71			
Ellen Jones	Elected Member	15,038.71			1.06%				15,038.71			
Gareth Davies	Elected Member	16,545.03							16,545.03	4,053.53	Gwent Police and Crime Panel	450.60
George Humphreys	Elected Member	15,038.71							15,038.71			
Godfrey Rhys Thomas	Elected Member	16,545.03							16,545.03			
Haydn Trollope	Scrutiny Chair to 26/05/2022 / Executive Member from 27/05/2022	-	30,873.39		2.59%				30,873.39	7,368.00		
Helen Cunningham	Elected Member to 26/05/2022 / Deputy Leader from 27/05/2022	812.90	31,741.33		3.23%				32,554.23	5,877.52		
Jacqueline Thomas	Elected Member	15,038.71			2.85%				15,038.71		Gwent Police and Crime Panel	872.40
Jennifer Morgan	Elected Member	15,038.71							15,038.71			
Joanna Wilkins	Cabinet Member to 26/05/2022 / Leader of the Opposition from 27/05/2022	-	26,134.50						26,134.50			
John C Morgan	Elected Member to 26/05/2022 / Executive Member from 27/05/2022	2,319.22	27,206.85		2.04%				29,526.07			
John P Morgan	Elected Member	16,545.03							16,545.03			
Julian Gardner	Elected Member	15,038.71							15,038.71			
Julie Holt	Elected Member	16,545.03							16,545.03	4,053.53		
Keith Chaplin	Elected Member	15,038.71							15,038.71			
Lisa Winnett	Elected Member to 26/05/2022 / Scrutiny Chair from 27/05/2022	2,319.22	21,671.49		0.37%				23,990.71	5,855.71		
Malcolm Cross	Scrutiny Chair (U/P) to 26/05/2022/ Scrutiny Chair from 27/05/2022	2,319.22	21,671.49		0.80%				23,990.71			
Malcolm Day	Elected Member	16,545.03							16,545.03			
Norman Parsons	Elected Member	16,545.03							16,545.03	4,053.53		
Peter Baldwin	Elected Member	16,545.03							16,545.03		Bannau Bryncheiniog National Park	3,498.30
Richard Hill	Scrutiny Chair to 26/05/2022 / Elected Member from 27/05/2022	14,225.81	3,666.54						17,892.35		Bannau Bryncheiniog National Park	789.66
Ross Leadbeater	Elected Member	15,038.71							15,038.71			
Sonia Behr	Elected Member	15,038.71			11.96%				15,038.71			
Stephen Thomas	Leader of the Opposition to 26/05/2022 / Leader of the Council from 27/05/2022	-	49,011.30		4.52%				49,011.30			
Susan Edmunds	Elected Member to 26/05/2022 / Executive Member from 27/05/2022	812.90	27,206.85						28,019.75			
Thomas Smith	Elected Member to 26/05/2022 / Scrutiny Chair from 27/05/2022	2,319.22	21,671.49		0.66%				23,990.71	5,838.49		
Wayne Hodgins	Elected Member to 26/05/2022 / Scrutiny Chair from 27/05/2022	2,319.22	21,671.49						23,990.71	5,877.69	South Wales Fire & Rescue Authority	391.73
Total / Cyfanswm		356,817.50	309,344.08						666,161.58	48,672.59		

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Co-opted Member Name	Committee	Total Allowance Paid				Travel allowance	Subsistence allowance	Reimbursement of care costs	Total		
Enw Aelog Cyfetholedig	Pwyllgor	Cyfanswm Lwfans a delir				Costau Teithio	Costau Cynhaliaeth	Ad-daliadau costau gofal	Cyfanswm		
Ronald Alexander	Co-Opted Chair of Standards Committee	938.00							938.00		
Joanne Absalom	Co-Opted Chair of Audit Committee	1,206.00							1,206.00		
Sarah Rosser	Co-Opted Member	105.00							105.00		
Stephen Williams	Co-Opted Member	974.00							974.00		
Martin Veale	Co-Opted Member	735.00							735.00		
Helen Roberts	Co-Opted Member	105.00							105.00		
Francis Lynch	Co-Opted Member	840.00							840.00		
Total / Cyfanswm		4,903.00							4,903.00		

1 Inclusive of the Basic Salary / Gan gynnwys y cyflog sylfaenol
2 If publishing care reimbursements anonymously, include a total.
Os yn cyhoeddi ad-daliadau gofal yn ddi-enw, rhwch gyfanswm

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Statement of Payments Made to Members of BLAENAU GWENT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL in 2022/23
Datganiad o Daliadau a Wnaed i Aelodau CYNGOR BWRDEISTREF SIROL BLAENAU GWENT yn 2022/23

Elected Members Not Returning

Councillor Name	Role or Title	Basic Salary	Senior Salary - Executive Members ¹	Civic Salary	% Opted to forgo	Travel allowance	Subsistence allowance	Reimbursement of care costs ²	Total	Pension Contributions	Payments from other public bodies oddi wrth cyrff cyhoeddus eraill	Taliadau
Enw'r Cynghorydd	Swyddogaeth neu Deitl	Cyflog Sylfaenol	Cyflog Uwch - Aelodau'r Gweithrediaeth ¹	Cyflog Dinesgig ¹	%Wedi dewis iildio	Costau Teithio	Costau Cynhaliaeth	Ad-daliadau costau gofal ²	Cyfanswm	Cyfraniadau Pensiwn	Name of Public body Enw'r corff	Amount Paid Swm a Delir
Amanda Moore	Scrutiny Chair to 08/05/2022		2,428.17						2,428.17			
Bernard Willis	Elected Member to 08/05/2022	1,506.32							1,506.32			
Brian Thomas	Elected Member to 08/05/2022	1,506.32							1,506.32			
Clive Meredith	Elected Member to 08/05/2022	1,506.32			0.87%				1,506.32	365.83		
David Elias	Elected Member to 08/05/2022	1,506.32							1,506.32			
Denzil Hancock	Scrutiny Chair to 08/05/2022		2,428.17						2,428.17			
Gareth Davies	Elected Member to 08/05/2022	1,506.32							1,506.32			
Garth Collier	Elected Member to 08/05/2022	1,506.32							1,506.32	369.05		
Gregory Paulsen	Elected Member to 08/05/2022	1,506.32			2.43%				1,506.32	360.06		
Hedley Mccarthy	Elected Member to 08/05/2022	1,506.32							1,506.32	369.05		
Joanne Collins	Cabinet Member to 08/05/2022		2,908.33						2,908.33	712.54		
John Mason	Cabinet Member to 08/05/2022		2,908.33						2,908.33			
Jonathan Millard	Elected Member to 08/05/2022	1,506.32							1,506.32	369.05		
Keith Hayden	Elected Member to 08/05/2022	1,506.32							1,506.32	369.05		
Keith Pritchard	Elected Member to 08/05/2022	1,506.32							1,506.32	369.05		
Keri Rowson	Elected Member to 08/05/2022	1,506.32							1,506.32			
Mark Holland	Elected Member to 08/05/2022	1,506.32							1,506.32	369.05		
Martin Cook	Elected Member to 08/05/2022	1,506.32							1,506.32		Silent Valley Waste Services Ltd	1,636.47
Nigel Daniels	Leader of the Council to 08/05/2022		4,709.46						4,709.46			
Phillip Edwards	Elected Member to 08/05/2022	1,506.32							1,506.32	369.05		
Robert Summers	Elected Member to 08/05/2022	1,506.32			1.86%				1,506.32		Silent Valley Waste Services Ltd	1,636.47
Stewart Healy	Scrutiny Chair to 08/05/2022		2,428.17						2,428.17			
Timothy Sharrem	Elected Member to 08/05/2022	1,506.32			0.87%				1,506.32	365.83		
Total / Cyfanswm		25,607.44	17,810.63						43,418.07	4,387.61		

1 Inclusive of the Basic Salary / Gan gynnwys y cyflog sylfaenol
2 If publishing care reimbursements anonymously, include a total.
Os yn cyhoeddi ad-daliadau gofal yn ddi-enw, rhowch gyfanswm

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