

Committee: **Democratic Services Committee**

Date of meeting: **13th July 2023**

Report Subject: **Schedule of Members Remuneration 2023-24**

Portfolio Holder: **Cllr Stephen Thomas
Leader / 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	Governance Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet	Council	Other (please state)
x	x			13.07.23			20.07.23	

1. **Purpose of the Report**
 - 1.1 To consider and agree the Schedule of Members Remuneration for 2023-24.
2. **Scope and Background**
 - 2.1 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 the Council is required to produce annually a schedule of payments it intends to make to its members and co-opted members.
 - 2.2 The proposed schedule for Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council is provided at Appendix 1.
 - 2.3 This report outlines the information that the Schedule should contain including the arrangements for the payment of salaries, allowances and fees to all members and co-opted members.
3. **Options for Recommendation**
 - 3.1 Option 1 (**preferred option**) – to agree and publish the Schedule of Members Remuneration for 2023/24.
 - 3.2 Option 2 – to make suggestions to amend the Schedule although the process is prescriptive in line with the legislation quoted above.
4. **Evidence of how this topic supports the achievement of the Corporate Plan / Statutory Responsibilities / Blaenau Gwent Well-being Plan**
 - 4.1 In agreeing and publishing the Schedule of Members Remuneration, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council is complying with its statutory responsibilities under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 and the

requirements of the IRPW aligning to the priority of being an efficient Council.

5. **Implications Against Each Option**

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

Option 1 - It is estimated that the publication costs will be approximately £200.

There are no other direct financial implications as a result of this report - the remuneration levels of Members of the Council for 2023/24 are identified in the attached Appendix 1.

5.2 ***Risk including Mitigating Actions***

Option 1 – There are no significant risks for the Council with this option.

Option 2 - Non-compliance with the determinations of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (IRPW) could result in reputational damage for the Council.

To mitigate this risk, agreeing and publishing the Schedule of Members Remuneration is proposed (option 1).

5.3 ***Legal***

Option 1 – This option ensures the Council complies with statutory responsibilities.

Option 2 – This would result in non-compliance within the statutory requirements.

5.4 ***Human Resources***

There are no Human Resources implications that impact upon the report other than the time required to produce and maintain the Schedule of Members Remuneration throughout the year.

6. **Supporting Evidence**

6.1 ***Performance Information and Data***

6.1.1 The Schedule should confirm that the Council's maximum limit of Senior Salaries has not been exceeded and include a declaration of whether:

- A statement of the basic responsibility of a councillor is in place.
- Role descriptions of senior salary office holders is in place.

Records are kept of councillor attendance.

- 6.1.2 It is also statutory to set out arrangements for the payment of salaries, allowances and fees to all members and co-opted members and must include a statement of allowable expenses together with details of the duties for which they may be claimed.
- 6.1.3 The Council must as soon as practicable after determining its Schedule for the year and no later than 31st July of the year to which the Schedule relates, make arrangements for its publication within the Council's area and in addition forward the Schedule to the IRPW.

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)***

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

The Schedule of Members Remuneration will be published 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 ***Decarbonisation and Reducing Carbon Emissions***

Not relevant to this report.

6.9 ***Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)***

Not relevant to this report.

7. **Monitoring Arrangements**

7.1 Monitored by the IRPW.

Background Documents /Electronic Links

- *Appendix 1 – Schedule of Members Remuneration 2023/24*
- *Appendix 2 - IRPW Annual Report 2023/24*