

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>