

COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT

REPORT TO:	<u>THE CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE</u>
SUBJECT:	<u>SPECIAL DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE – 1ST JULY, 2019</u>
REPORT OF:	<u>DEMOCRATIC SUPPORT OFFICER</u>

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR M. CROSS (CHAIR)

Councillors M. Cook
N. Daniels
G. A. Davies
P. Edwards
K. Hayden
M. Holland
H. McCarthy, B.A. (Hons)
J. Millard
K. Pritchard

ALSO: **Scrutiny Chairs & Vice-Chairs**

Councillors J. Hill
S. Thomas
H. Trollope
J. Wilkins

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

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
1.	<p><u>SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION</u></p> <p>It was noted that no requests had been received for the simultaneous translation service.</p>	
2.	<p><u>APOLOGIES</u></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received for:-</p> <p>Councillors M. Day, W. Hodgins and J.C. Morgan</p>	
3.	<p><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS</u></p> <p>No declarations of interest or dispensations were reported.</p>	
4.	<p><u>DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 11th March, 2019.</p> <p>A Member pointed out that there were actions arising from the meeting but no action sheet on the agenda.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED, subject to the foregoing, that the Minutes be received as a true record of proceedings.</p>	
5.	<p><u>STATEMENT OF PAYMENTS MADE TO MEMBERS 2018/2019</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Organisational Development.</p> <p>The Organisational Development Manager presented the report which identified the reporting requirements for the publication of the annual schedule of payments to Members for 2018/19 in order to comply with Part 8 and Schedules 2 and 3 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 and</p>	

the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (IRPW) Regulations. The full schedule of payments was attached at Appendix 1. The Officer pointed out that some of the payments in relation to other public bodies had yet to be received, but hopefully these would be received in time for the report to be submitted to Council.

The Chair requested that the Appendix be printed in a larger font in the future.

Councillor J. Millard pointed out that his travel allowance was for the 2017/18 financial year, but was paid during the 2018/19 financial year.

A Member asked whether the public were given details of the nature of the travel allowance, and in response the Officer confirmed that all original claims were retained and could be viewed by the public if requested.

A discussion ensued regarding the publication of details of travel allowance claims, when it was agreed that a qualifying statement be issued on the Statement of Payments Made to Members stating that all travel allowance claims have been checked and verified.

AGREED accordingly.

A discussion ensued regarding the number of meetings called of outside bodies, when the Chair said feedback on attendance of these meetings would be beneficial.

The Committee FURTHER AGREED to recommend to Council that the report be accepted and Option 1 be endorsed, namely that the Statement of Payments Made to Members during 2018/2019 be published in compliance with relevant legislation.

6.

SCHEDULE OF MEMBERS REMUNERATION 2019/2020

The report of the Head of Organisational Development was submitted for consideration.

The Head of Organisational Development presented the

	<p>Schedule of Members Remuneration for 2019/20 which the Council was required to produce annually to comply with Part 8 and schedules 2 and 3 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011, and the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (IRPW) regulations. The report outlined the information included in the Schedule (attached at Appendix 1), including the arrangements for payment of salaries, allowances and fees to all Members and co-opted Members.</p> <p>A discussion ensued regarding publication of the Schedule, and the Officer said whilst social media was a valued measure of communication, the Schedule continued to be published in the press to ensure as wide a circulation as possible to include those who did not access the internet.</p> <p>In response to a comment made by a Member, the Officer undertook to amend the format of Schedule 1.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED, subject to the foregoing, to recommend to Council that the report be accepted and Option 1 be endorsed, namely that the Schedule of Members Remuneration 2019/2020 be published.</p>	
<p>7.</p>	<p><u>TIME OF FUTURE MEETINGS</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the time of future Democratic Services Committee meetings.</p> <p>Following a discussion it was agreed that future meetings continue to be held at 10.00 a.m.</p>	