

## **FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** **FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**DATE:** **TUESDAY, 14 MAY 2013**

**REPORT BY:** **HEAD OF LEGAL & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

**SUBJECT:** **SCHEDULE OF MEMBER REMUNERATION**

### **1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.01 The purpose of the report to approve the council's schedule of member remuneration for 2013/14.

### **2.00 BACKGROUND**

2.01 In December 2012 the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales ("The Panel") issued its annual report for the year 2013/14. That report determines what payments can be paid to members and co-opted members. Flintshire must implement the report from the date of its annual meeting.

2.02 The Panel's annual report for 2013/14 was the subject of a report by the Democracy & Governance Manager to the council meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> January. That report explained the need to make various changes to our existing schedule of member remuneration at the council's annual meeting.

### **3.00 CONSIDERATIONS**

3.01 The Panel in its report has decided that the amounts of what it refers to as "basic salaries" and "senior salaries" and the number of "senior salaries" will remain the same for 2013/14. It has, however, determined that a senior salary must be paid to the leader of the largest opposition group where that opposition group comprises at least 10% of the council membership. This payment to be £21,910 which includes the basic salary/allowance of £13,175 so that in effect, the leader of the largest opposition group will in future receive an allowance of £8,735 for that role.

3.02 At present, the schedule of member remuneration does not include the leader of the largest opposition group among the 18 posts entitled to receive a "senior salary". The council therefore needs to decide which of the existing posts should no longer receive a "senior salary". The existing posts in receipt of a "senior salary" are shown in appendix 1.

- 3.03 The council currently pays a mileage rate of 0.40 pence per mile (up to 10,000 miles a year) to members and co-opted members when using their own vehicle to travel to meetings and on other approved duties. The Panel's annual report withdraws the ability for councils to pay less than 45 pence per mile and therefore the council's schedule of member remuneration will have to be amended to increase the rate to 45 pence per mile.
- 3.04 In relation to co-opted members, the Panel's annual report makes two changes to the current arrangements. Firstly, it is now recognised that time spent on attending authorised training events, conferences and pre-meetings with officers qualify for payment to a co-optee of the co-optee's allowance. Previously, the co-optee's allowance could only be paid for attendance at committee meetings. Secondly, the Panel's annual report removes the limit of 10 days which is currently the maximum number of days for which a co-opted member may be paid in any one year. Instead, it is for the council to decide on the maximum number of days for which a co-opted member shall receive payments in any one year. As nearly all committee meetings, training events, conferences and pre-meetings only last half a day, it is believed that the current limit of in effect 20 half days should be sufficient.

#### **4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.01 For council to determine:-
- a) Which posts, including the leader of the largest opposition group, should receive a "senior salary".
  - b) To determine the maximum number of days for which a co-opted member may be paid in any one year.
- 4.02 The Democracy & Governance Manager to amend the council's schedule of member remuneration to reflect the decisions in 4.01 and arising from the Panel's annual report for 2013/14.

#### **5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.01 It is estimated that the changes arising from the Panel's annual report could be approximately £6,000 per annum.

#### **6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT**

- 6.01 None as a result of this report.

#### **7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

- 7.01 None as a result of this report.

**8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT**

8.01 None as a result of this report.

**9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

9.01 None as a result of this report.

**10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED**

10.01 None as a result of this report.

**11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN**

11.01 Panel's annual report considered at council on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2013.

**12.00 APPENDICES**

12.01 Appendix 1 – List of posts currently receiving “senior salary”.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985  
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Panel's annual report for 2013/14

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