



<b>REPORT TO:</b>	North Wales Police and Crime Panel
<b>DATE:</b>	4 June 2013
<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	Ken Finch, Strategic Director (Democracy, Regulation and Support) – Conwy County Borough Council
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Member Allowances and Expenses

### 1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To consider whether the Panel Arrangements for the North Wales Police and Crime Panel should make provision for the payment of allowances to members of the Panel.
- 1.2 Any payment of allowances will need to be reflected in the Panel Arrangements and the Home Office will need to agree any changes to these arrangements.

### 2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Government has committed to cover the costs of maintaining the Police and Crime Panels and host Authorities for a Police and Crime Panel can receive annually up to:
  - £53,300 for costs of administering Panels;
  - £5,715 for Welsh language translation costs for Welsh Panels; and
  - £920 for expenses per member
- 2.2 From the figures above, currently £920 (£460 for 2012/13) is available annually per panel member for expenses (to include allowances should an allowance be payable).
- 2.3 Currently, the Panel Arrangements for the North Wales Police and Crime Panel do not provide for payment of any allowance, only for expenses and subsistence incurred by members of the Panel in the course of their duties. Any expenses or subsistence is paid in accordance with Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales's reimbursement of expenses – "Travel allowance" and "Subsistence allowance" rates, as amended.

### 3. RECOMMENDATION(S)/OPTIONS

- 3.1 That the North Wales Police and Crime Panel considers whether the Panel Arrangements should make provision for the payment of allowances to panel members.

### 4. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 4.1 The North Wales Police and Crime Panel Arrangements do not provide for the payment of allowances to Elected Members or Co-opted Members of the Panel. The Act, however, does provide that Panel Arrangements may make provision for the payment of allowances to panel members.

- 4.2 Whilst no overall figures are available, a number of Police and Crime Panels across England and Wales do pay allowances, however there appears to be no consistent approach. There are examples where there is no payment of allowances; all Panel members receive an allowance; the Chair and Vice Chair only receive an allowance; and Co-opted Members only receive an allowance.

- 4.3 Three of the four Welsh Police and Crime Panels pay allowances as follows:-

**Dyfed Powys Police and Crime Panel** - Panel Members receive payments in recognition of the time devoted to their work associated with and in attending meetings, including incidental expenses. Payments are made via a daily fee of £198 (£99.00 for a half day), which are capped at a maximum of the equivalent of 5 full days a year.

**Gwent Police and Crime Panel** - Panel Members are paid a daily rate fee and are capped at 6 days per year, per panel member. The daily rate fees as at September 2012 are as follows:

- Chair of the Gwent Police and Crime Panel - £256.00 per day
- Member of the Gwent Police and Crime Panel - £198.00 per day

In addition, Members of the Gwent Police and Crime Panel are entitled to claim travel allowances for approved duties. The rates of travel will be the same as those determined by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales for Members of Local Authorities.

- 4.4 **South Wales Police and Crime Panel** - For 2013/14 and subject to Home Office approval, any allowance will be paid, subject to a member's attendance at meetings/training, etc up to a maximum of 5 events/meetings per year, at an amount of £184 each time.

This allowance payment is referred to as a "general allowance" and entitles the panel member to a maximum payment of £920.00 (i.e. 5 x £184) for the year and if members receive this general allowance, there is no additional payment for travel expenses/subsistence. Alternatively, those members who do not wish to receive a general allowance, may opt out and claim travel expenses/subsistence in the usual way.

- 4.5 Whilst the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales has no powers in respect of Police and Crime Panels, its determinations have been used as a basis for the payment of any expenses. Any payment of allowances will need to be reflected in the Panel Arrangements and the Home Office will need to agree any changes to the arrangements.

## **5. CONSULTATION**

- 5.1 Consultation has been carried out with the Chair of the North Wales Police and Crime Panel.

## **6. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The Home Office provides funding to the host Local Authority for a Police and Crime Panel, who can receive annually up to:

- £53,300 for costs of administering Panels;
- £5,715 for Welsh language translation costs for Welsh Panels; and
- £920 for expenses per member

## **7. RISK**

- 7.1 There is no apparent risk to the Panel in relation to considering this report.

## **8. PUBLICATION**

- 8.1 The expenses of the Panel will be published on an annual basis.

## **9. REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)**

- 9.1 To seek clarification on the payment of allowances to members of the North Wales Police and Crime Panel.