

Telephone Payments to Elected Members across Welsh Local Authorities.

Analysis

IRPW Determination 6 says *All elected members should be provided with adequate telephone, email and internet facilities giving electronic access to appropriate information.*

On the basis of that, none of the Welsh Authorities appear to be in complete compliance. There are degrees of compliance.

- Phone line provision: Caerphilly and Merthyr Tydfil, but Monmouthshire provide ‘lap top or tablet device with softphone functionality and skype calling’.
- Home IT : Caerphilly
- Mobiles to All Members: Conwy & Powys
- Payments to all Members :Carmarthenshire (£20 per month/£240 per year) Pembrokeshire (£500 per year) Swansea (£15 per month for broadband - £180 per year and £10 per month for telephones - £120 per year, total £300 per year)

On the basis of the above, eight Authorities (Caerphilly, Carmarthenshire, Conwy, Merthyr, Monmouthshire, Pembrokeshire, Powys and Swansea) appear to have phone provision covered in terms of mobiles, line provision or telephone payments.

Authority	Number of members	Line provision	Home IT	Mobile	Payment	4G Ipad/Lap top	Details of provision
Blaenau Gwent CBC	42	No response	No response	No response	No response	No response	No response
Bridgend CBC	54	No.	No	Cabinet members only	No	No	Only provide mobile telephones for Cabinet members. There is currently no mobile telephone provision for other members but this is being reviewed in light of the IRPW visit.
Caerphilly CBC	73	Yes if	Yes	Cabinet members and	No	No	Provide all members with home IT equipment and

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		required		Leader of the Opposition			will install a dedicated broadband line – if they wish. Also provide mobile phones to all Cabinet and Leader of Opposition Group. They also have dedicated access to computers and phones at our offices in their Group rooms
Cardiff	75	No response	No response	No response	No response	No response	No response
Carmarthenshire	74	No	No	Cabinet members	£20 per month communication allowance to all members		Offer a communication allowance of £20 per month, but have not made specific reference to telephone costs being included (we mention broadband) Mobile phones provided to the 10 Executive Board members
Ceredigion	42	No	No	No	Considering £10 month allowance for telephone and broadband	All members offered 4G Ipad or laptop	Provide wifi in all our buildings and all are offered a choice of a laptop or a 4G Enabled iPad. £10/mth opt-in allowance for telephone and broadband being considered
Conwy CBC	59	No	No	Yes	No	No	Provide all Members with a smart phone, but a small number) opt to have the basic handset. Some have recently opted to use BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) rather than have a Council mobile and a personal mobile – this allows the Councillor to pick up their council e-mails on their personal devices.
Denbighshire CC	47	No	No	No	No	4G Ipads	Provide wifi and 4G enabled iPads (plus the usual members' room facilities)
Flintshire CC	70	No	No	Cabinet members and some committee chairs	No	No	Mobile phones provided to Cabinet members and committee chairs on request
Gwynedd Council	75	No	No	Leader only	No but see end	No	Do not make an annual lump sum payment to Members for use of their phones Do not provide all Members mobile phones

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					column		- only the Leader.) All members can receive their emails / calendar on their personal phones if they wish. There is a cost involved with this provision, which the Council meets.
Isle of Anglesey CC	30	No	No	Leader only	No	No	Only provide a phone to the Leader
Merthyr Tydfil CBC	33	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	At the beginning of the 2012-2017 term, Merthyr Tydfil installed a landline into each Cllrs' home to give them wifi access and to allow them to use the telephone line. Only 5 of them used the line. All the others preferred to continue using their own landlines that they had been using for years and which they also used through their campaign, because they said the constituents knew that number. iPads with 4G were purchased this term and as this meant that the wifi was no longer needed, we chose to remove the telephone lines because they weren't being used. Now revisiting telephone provision
Monmouthshire CC	43	No	No	A laptop or tablet device that has softphone functionality and skype calling	No	Laptop or tablet device that has softphone functionality and skype calling	Don't make any provision for landlines or mobile phones. However all members are provided with a laptop or tablet device that has softphone functionality and skype calling. This means that they are able to make telephone calls without incurring any personal expense.
Neath Port Talbot	64	No	No	No	No	No	Our monitoring officer consistently makes the point that IRPW are operating outside of the powers that they have been given.
Newport City	50	No	No	No response	No response	No response	No response

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Council		response	response				
Pembrokeshire CC	60	No	No	No	£500 pa each member	No	Provide an annual payment of £500 (additional to Member's salary) to cover all IT / office expenses
Powys CC	73	No	No	Yes	Used to pay for broadband, but recently stopped	No	Do not make any payments to Members for use of their phones. Used to repay broadband costs to those who bothered to claim which in the end were a very small number. The Council recently decided to stop those payments as everyone generally has broadband nowadays. Since May has also offered mobile phones to all members and a large number have taken this up.
Rhondda Cynon Taff	75	No	No	Cabinet members only	No	No	Don't pay anything towards Members phones. Cabinet Members are provided with mobile phones.
Swansea City	72	No	No	Mobile phone allowance of £25 per month but this is only paid to the Cabinet Members x 10, Leader of the Largest Opposition Group and the Presiding Member (Chair of Council)	Offer a monthly amount to Cllrs & Co-opted Members to fund Broadband £15 and Telephone £10	No	Offer a monthly amount to Cllrs & Co-opted Members to fund Broadband £15 and Telephone £10. The amounts are less for a Co-opted member. In order for this amount to be paid they must produce a bill on an annual basis. Also pay a mobile phone allowance of £25 per month but this is only paid to the Cabinet Members x 10, Leader of the Largest Opposition Group and the Presiding Member (Chair of Council). Again for this to be paid, they must produce a bill on an annual basis.
Torfaen CBC	44	No response	No response	No response	No response	No response	No response
Vale of Glamorgan Council	47	No	No	All members	No	Yes	All Elected Members have been provided with mobile 'smart' phones under the terms / tariffs (voice and data) of the Council's corporate mobile phone contract. They have also been provided

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							with Windows 10 tablet devices with Wi-Fi and 4G connectivity to allow remote connection to ICT services whilst away from the home / office and have also received 'Aruba' devices which provide home Wi-Fi hotspots to allow a no-cost connection to ICT services whilst working from home.
Wrexham CBC	52	No	No	No	No	No	Do not provide telephones an allowance for telephones or broadband.