

Draft Response to IRPW re Draft Annual Report for 2014

1. The Council welcomes those parts of the draft proposals that increase the scope for local choice by individual Councils. It does however believe that a better way of providing local choice would be to ring-fence the amount that can be paid to those members who have special responsibilities and leave it to individual Councils to determine how that amount should be allocated.
2. The draft annual report does not propose any increase in the number of Councillors who can be paid for having special responsibilities and therefore does not address the discrepancy between those Councils who have a larger number of Councillors (such as Flintshire) and those that do not (such as Isle of Anglesey). Only 25.7% of Flintshire's membership can receive payments for their special responsibilities whereas in Anglesey it is 50% and there is no good reason for this discrepancy.
3. In relation to co-opted members, whilst the Council welcomes eligibility being extended to include attendance at Working Group and Task and Finish Group meetings the proposed determinations 26, 27 and 28 will add to the complexity of an already unnecessarily complex area. They will also lead to a lack of transparency and create inconsistency between different co-opted members.