

**Draft Annual Report for 2014/15**

1. The Council welcomes the two proposed changes to introduce more local choice in relation to the payments to be made to Committee Chairs, Civic Heads and Deputy Civic Heads (determinations 3 and 6 in the draft annual report).
2. In relation to the first and second determinations in the draft report relating to increases in basic allowance/salary and the payments to the Leader, Deputy Leader and other Cabinet members, the Council believes it would be inequitable for Members to receive a greater increase in their pay than the majority of Council staff and would only favour these increases if those staff on NJC terms and conditions were receiving at least a 1% increase in their pay.
3. In relation to determination four in the draft report, the amount paid to the Leader of the so called largest opposition group, it is believed there should be more allowance made for local choice particularly as there can be a wide variety in local circumstances. Flintshire's situation is that there are four political groups not represented on the Cabinet with three of them exceeding the 10% of membership threshold but with there being very little difference in the size of those political groups. It is believed it should be left to local choice to decide how to pay the Leaders of those three groups.
4. The Council agrees with the proposal of removing the maximum reimbursement for an overnight stay in Cardiff so that for all overnight stays outside of London the maximum reimbursement would be £95.
5. 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.