

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: **FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

DATE: **TUESDAY, 20 MAY 2014**

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

SUBJECT: **SCHEDULE OF MEMBER REMUNERATION**

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.01 The purpose of the report is to approve the Council's Schedule of Member Remuneration for 2014/15.

2.00 BACKGROUND

2.01 On the 12 February 2014 the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (IRPW) issued its Annual Report. That report determines what payments can be paid to Members and Co-opted Members for the Council year 2014/15. Flintshire must implement the report from the date of its Annual Meeting

2.02 The IRPW's Annual Report was the subject of a report to the Council meeting on the 30th of April 2014. A copy of the IRPW Report has been placed in the Members' Library and in the Group Rooms. There is a need to make various changes to the Council's existing Schedule of Member Remuneration to reflect the changes that the IRPW has decided to make.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

3.01 The first change contained in the IRPW's Annual Report is to increase what it refers to as "basic salaries" from the current £13,175 p.a. to £13,300 p.a. This increase of less than 1% is the first increase in "basic salaries" since 2011. The Schedule of Member Remuneration will need amending to reflect this new figure.

3.02 In relation to what the IRPW describe as "Senior Salaries" it has decided that the differentials between different sized authorities should be narrowed. For Flintshire this will mean the following changes:-

Leader - increase of £500 p.a.

Deputy Leader - increase of £40 p.a.

Cabinet Members - increase of £220 p.a.

Committee Chairs - increase of £90 p.a.

Leader of largest opposition Group - increase of £90 p.a.
 This would be an overall increase of £2,760 p.a.

- 3.03 In relation to payments to the Civic Head and Deputy the IRPW has decided to give local choice to Councils as to which of three bands it wishes to apply.

Remuneration of Civic Heads and Deputy Civic Heads (includes "basic salary" of £13,300 p.a.)		
	Civic Heads	Deputy Civic Heads
a)	£24,000	£18,000
b)	£21,500	£16,000
c)	£19,000	£14,000

- 3.04 The middle band is the nearest to Flintshire's existing payments and would lead to an increase of £125 p.a. for the Chair but a decrease of £625 p.a. for the Vice Chair. The highest band would lead to an increase for the Chair of £2625 p.a. and an increase for the Vice Chair of £1375 p.a. If the Council was to decide to pay the lowest band this would lead to the Chair's payment going down by £2375 p.a. and the Vice Chair's payment going down by £2625 p.a. The Council needs to decide which of the three bands should be paid to the Council Chair and Vice Chair.
- 3.05 The IRPW's Annual Report also confirms changes that came into effect on the 1 January 2014 in relation to co-optees allowance. These changes included widening the meetings for which co-optees allowances are payable to include working group and other meetings to which co-opted members are requested to attend. This change has led to one co-opted member reaching the current annual maximum of 10 days (20 half days) for which co-optees allowance is payable. This change has an effect on those co-opted members who are Chair and Vice Chair of Standards Committee and Vice Chair of Lifelong Learning Overview & Scrutiny in particular. Members may consider it appropriate to increase the current 10 days maximum per year to 15 days.
- 3.06 The only change in the IRPW Annual Report for travel and subsistence allowances is to remove the previous maximum for an overnight stay in Cardiff (previously £120) so that for everywhere except London the maximum is now £95 per night.
- 3.07 It remains open to any Member to choose not to claim all or part of any "salary" that Member is entitled to receive by giving written notice to the Head of Legal & Democratic Services.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.01 For Council to decide which of the three bands of payment should be chosen for payment to the Council Chair and Vice Chair (see paragraphs 3.03 & 3.04)
- 4.02 To increase the maximum number of days eligible for payment of co-optees allowance from 10 to 15 days in each Council year.
- 4.03 For the Democracy and Governance Manager to be authorised to amend the Council's Schedule of Member Remuneration to reflect the Council decision in 4.01 and the changes arising from the IRPW's Annual Report.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.01 The minimum impact on the budget of these changes in allowances is £6510 with the maximum impact standing at £15510 and either of these increases could be accommodated within the existing budget provision for Members Allowances. This budget currently accommodates a mileage allowance for Members which is rarely utilised in full and in year under spends in 2013/14 have been declared in the monthly budget monitoring report.

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 With Group Leaders and reported to Council on 30th April 2014.

12.00 APPENDICES

12.01 None

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

IRPW's Annual Report for 2014 / 15

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