

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: **DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE**

DATE: **WEDNESDAY, 1 JULY 2015**

REPORT BY: **CHIEF OFFICER (GOVERNANCE)**

SUBJECT: **MEMBERS' SUPPORT**

1.00 **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.01 For the Committee to satisfy itself that all Members are given as much support as is necessary to enable them to fulfil their duties effectively.

2.00 **BACKGROUND**

2.01 In the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (The Panel) Annual Report issued in February 2015 it determined that each Authority through its Democratic Services Committee must ensure that all its Members are given as much support as is necessary to enable them to fulfil their duties effectively. The determination went on to indicate that all elected members should be provided with adequate telephone and email facilities and electronic access to appropriate information. The relevant part of The Panel's Report is attached as Appendix 1.

2.02 In 2008 Flintshire was one of the first Council's in Wales to achieve the Welsh Local Government Association's (WLGA) Charter for Members' Support and Development. In order to obtain the Charter the WLGA had to be satisfied that there were appropriate arrangements in place to support all Members to fulfil their duties effectively. Continuing compliance with the Charter was confirmed when it was successfully renewed in October 2011.

3.00 **CONSIDERATIONS**

3.01 The determinations made in the Annual Report of The Panel refer to the support Members should be provided with in relation to telephone, email and electronic access to appropriate information. Some authorities (not Flintshire) had re-charged Members for the cost of such support and The Panel's Determination 7 reinforces its previous advice that such support should be made without cost to individual Members.

3.02 In Flintshire telephone facilities are provided in each political group room and in Members Services. In addition Members with special responsibilities are provided with mobile devices and the cost of

business calls is met by the Council. Recently all Members have been offered Member iPads to improve the email facilities and provide electronic access to appropriate information. This has enabled the Council to make budget savings in relation to printing and postage costs.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.01 The Committee is recommended to confirm that all Members are given as much support as is necessary to enable them to fulfil their duties effectively and are provided with adequate telephone and email facilities and electronic access to appropriate information.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.01 Appropriate budget provision is made for Member Support.

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 None as a result of this report.

12.00 APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Extract from the Annual Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985 BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None

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