

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: **ANNUAL MEETING OF THE FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

DATE: **15 MAY 2012**

REPORT BY: **DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE MANAGER**

SUBJECT: **SCHEDULE OF MEMBER REMUNERATION**

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.01 To approve the council's schedule of member remuneration.

2.00 BACKGROUND

2.01 It is the custom and practice in Flintshire that the rates of member allowances are determined at the council's annual meeting for the forthcoming municipal year. This municipal year will be the first under the new arrangements introduced by the annual report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (IRPW) issued in December 2011. The annual report was the subject of a report to the county council meeting on the 31 January 2012 when the council noted the provisions coming into effect from May 2012 and made certain decisions in preparation for the changes.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

3.01 One of the changes for the 2012/13 municipal year is that the previous requirement to have a scheme of member allowances is replaced by a requirement to have a schedule of member remuneration. The schedule of member remuneration needs to be produced no later than 4 weeks following the council's annual meeting and the council must make arrangements for its publication as soon as practical after its determination and no later than the 31 July of the year to which it applies.

3.02 Annex 2 of the annual report of the IRPW details the information that has to be included in the schedule. In essence it describes the various payments that are made to members and co-opted members. Attached as appendix A is a draft schedule of member remuneration containing the information required by annex 2 insofar as that information is available prior to the annual meeting.

- 3.03** At the council meeting on the 31 January 2012 it was decided that the appropriate mileage rate for travel by car should remain at 40p per mile, that this should not be payable for constituency mileage and that the maximum reimbursement for London hotel expenditure should be £150 per night. These decisions are incorporated into the schedule of member remuneration attached as appendix A.
- 3.04** The amounts of what the IRPW describe as basic and senior salaries are now prescribed and set by the IRPW. Similarly in relation to the amount paid to co-optees. The provisions relating to travel and subsistence rates (except for London hotels referred to in paragraph 3.03 above) remain unaltered from the 2011/12 members' allowance scheme.
- 3.05** The one issue outstanding is to determine the posts that will be eligible for senior salaries. The number of such posts is limited to a maximum of 18 excluding the civic allowances paid to the council's chair and vice chair. The posts that are eligible for payment of senior salaries are those listed in appendix 2 of the schedule of Member remuneration and no individual councillor is entitled to more than one senior salary or to receive both a senior salary and a civic salary. All senior and civic salaries are paid inclusive of the basic salary. The Leader, Deputy Leader and Executive members are prohibited from receiving a salary from any National Park Authority or Fire & Rescue Authority.
- 3.06** Claims for travel and subsistence allowances are to be made in accordance with appendix 4 of the schedule of Member remuneration, in particular they can only be claimed in respect of the official business listed in paragraphs (a) to (n). Any claim for travel and subsistence has to be submitted with 4 months of the date on which any entitlement became due and receipts must be produced. Member Services staff will assist new members in completing their claim forms for the first time.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.01 To determine up to a maximum of 18 posts eligible for senior salaries.

4.02 To approve the schedule of member remuneration in appendix A.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.01 The new permanent rates can be met from the 2012/13 budget with the underspend of approximately £0.084m being available to meet any increases in member pension contributions and in providing increased IT support to members. Further budget implications will be reviewed as part of the budget process for 2013/14.

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

12.01 Appendix A - Draft schedule of member remuneration

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Report of the IRPW dated December 2011

Report to and minute of county council meeting 31 January 2012

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