

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF ADMINISTRATION AND LAW

DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE

12TH MARCH 2019

INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES (IRPW) ANNUAL REPORT (FEBRUARY, 2019)

The Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales published its 2019-20 Annual Report in February 2019

The report contains 49 determinations which are detailed within the attached appendix and form Annex 5 of the IRPW report.

The Democratic Services Committee is asked to consider the following matters which the IRPW has determined that individual authorities can decide:-

Subsistence costs when on Official Business:-

The Authority currently pays overnight costs of up to £200 for London, £95 elsewhere and £25 for staying with friends and/or Family. The IRPW rates allow payment of up to £200 for London, £95 for elsewhere and £30 for staying with friends and/or family. The **Democratic Services Committee is asked to consider whether it wishes to retain the rates of reimbursement for subsistence costs for 2019/20 and continue with the current practice of all overnight accommodation for members being arranged through the Democratic Services Unit.**

Co-opted Member Payments:-

Principal Councils can decide on the maximum number of days in any one year for which co-opted members can be paid, Council currently caps payment of Co-opted Members' Fees at 10 full day (or 20 half-day) meetings per annum and the **Democratic Services Committee is asked to consider whether it wishes to retain this level or suggest an alternative maximum limit for 2019/20.**

Reimbursement of Costs of Care

The IRPW has again decided to allow optional approaches to the publication of costs of care, namely

Option 1 - details of the amounts reimbursed to named members; or

Option 2 - the total amount reimbursed by the authority during the year but not attributable to any member (*as at present*).

The Democratic Services Committee is asked to consider whether it wishes to retain publication in accordance with Option 2.