

**CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.**

**COUNTY COUNCIL  
26<sup>TH</sup> January, 2017**

**REPORT AUTHOR: Solicitor to the Council  
Strategic Director - Resources**

**SUBJECT: Payments to Co-Opted Members**

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**REPORT FOR: Decision**

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1. The Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales sets the level of fees payable to all Independent and Co-Opted Members of the Council. However it is for the Council to determine if it wishes to set a maximum number of days for which an Independent or Co-Opted Member can be paid.
2. With regard to the Independent Member of the Audit Committee the Council in January 2015 set the maximum number of days for which the Independent Member can be paid at 25 days. However for the current financial year there have been a number of circumstances which have increased the requirement for the Independent Member to attend an increased number of meetings. In the previous financial year the Independent Member was a member of the Audit Committee, the Audit Committee's Internal Audit Scrutiny Group, and the Finance Scrutiny Panel. During this financial year the Independent Member was appointed by the Audit Committee as its Vice-Chair and in addition a new scrutiny group has been established to review the overspend in social care which has resulted in a number of additional meetings being called.
3. The cumulative impact of this increased workload has resulted in the Independent Member exceeding the 25 days maximum allowed by the Council (to the end of December 2016 the total claimed was 29 days, with the extra days taking place in December 2016). However it is important to retain the valuable contribution provided by the Independent Member in the ongoing work until the end of this Council term. This one-off cost of approximately £3250 for an estimated 16 extra days (December 2016 to April 2017) can be contained within the current year's budget, but such additional expenditure will require the consent of Full Council.
4. In the circumstances, Full Council is asked to consider removing the maximum number of payments to the Independent Member for the remainder of the Council term only (i.e. until the end of April, 2017) so that he can continue to contribute to the work of the Council. The maximum level of 25 days per annum as set in 2015 will continue to be applied from May 2017 onwards, unless varied by Full Council at a later date.

5. Comments on the Report.

5.1 Support Services.

Finance – This one-off cost can be contained within the existing budget

Legal – I note the Finance comment and have nothing to add as the report properly highlights the relevant information regarding the matter.

5.2 Corporate Communications.

No proactive communication action required

5.3 Statutory Officers.

Strategic Director – Resources (Section 151 Officer) – The recommendation is supported to ensure continuity until the end of April 2017.

Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer) has commented as follows: “I note the legal comment and have nothing to add to the report”.

5.4 The Chair of Audit has commented “As chair of the audit committee I fully support this interim measure to secure continuity at a very important and intense time for the audit committee. Mr Brautigam as vice chair is involved in a number of highly important issues and has proved to be a very able and well respected member of the committee. This proposal will also give us the continuity which is required as we move towards the budget setting and the scrutiny of it by the audit committee and finance scrutiny panel”.

<b>Recommendation to the County Council:</b>	<b>Reason for Recommendation:</b>
<p>(i) <b>That the maximum number of days for which the Independent Member of the Audit Committee may be paid from the Annual Meeting in 2016 until the end of April, 2017 be removed on a one-off basis.</b></p> <p>(ii) <b>Save for as provided in recommendation 1 above, the maximum number of days for which the Audit Committee Independent Member may be paid from the Annual Meeting in 2017 remain at 25 days.</b></p>	<p><b>To authorise an exception to the maximum number of days for which the Independent Member of the Audit Committee may be paid for 2016-17 due to one-off circumstances.</b></p>

<b>Relevant Policy (ies):</b>			
<b>Within Policy:</b>	<b>Y / N</b>	<b>Within Budget:</b>	<b>Y</b>

<b>Relevant Local Member(s):</b>	
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<b>Person(s) To Implement Decision:</b>	<b>Wyn Richards</b>
<b>Date By When Decision To Be Implemented:</b>	<b>January, 2017</b>

<b>Contact Officer Name:</b>	<b>Tel:</b>	<b>Fax:</b>	<b>Email:</b>
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**Background Papers used to prepare Report:**