

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.

**County Council
13th July, 2017**

REPORT AUTHOR: David Powell, Strategic Director - Resources

SUBJECT: Members' Schedule of Remuneration 2017-18

REPORT FOR: Decision

1. Summary

- 1.1 The report recommends that the County Council approves the Members' Schedule of Remuneration 2017-18 for publication and submission to the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (IRPW).

2. Background

- 2.1 The Council is required by the IRPW to maintain an annual Schedule of Members' Remuneration which is in accord with the Panel's determinations on Member salary and Co-Opted Members payments. Once the Council has approved the Schedule it must be published (on the Council's website) and a copy sent to the IRPW by no later than 31st July of each year. Any amendments to the Schedule must be communicated to the Panel as soon as practicably following the change and published on the Council's website.
- 2.2 The Council usually considers the draft Schedule of Members' Remuneration at the same time as it considers the annual report on Members' Salaries, Allowances and Expenses (considered at the Annual Meeting in May) which reflects any changes to the determinations made by the IRPW in the Annual Report for 2017-18. However due to the Council elections it was not possible to prepare the draft Schedule until such time as Member appointments to various roles within the Council had been completed.

3. Payments for Broadband Provision.

- 3.1 The Council around 10 years ago, at a time when broadband provision was limited in Powys, identified that for Members to have improved access to documents and Council systems, provision was required for Members to have access to broadband. Initially this was by means of the installation of telephone lines dedicated for the purpose. Then with the wider implementation of broadband in the county, the lines were discontinued (unless the Member took over the payment for it) and instead a flat rate payment of £15 per month was paid to councillors.
- 3.2 With the change where Members and officers were required to retain their own receipts for any claims made, the former system was discontinued in 2011. In its place Members could claim for the rental of the broadband as it was utilised for Council work.

3.3 The Independent Remuneration Panel (IRPW) in its annual report for 2017-18 has made the following determinations:

Determination 6: The Panel has 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. All elected members should be provided with adequate telephone and email facilities and electronic access to appropriate information.

Determination 7: The Panel has determined that such support should be without cost to the individual member. Deductions must not be made from members' salaries by the respective authority as a contribution towards the cost of support which the authority has decided necessary for the effectiveness and/or efficiency of members.

3.4 In 2016-17 only 15 of the 73 Members made a claim for broadband (at a cost of £2175.79). However as broadband is almost universally available now in Powys, the Council is asked to consider whether Members should be able to claim for broadband provision which will need to be included within the Members Scheme of Remuneration.

4. RECOMMENDATION.

Recommendation to the County Council	Reason for Recommendation:
<p>(i) that the Council determines whether Members should be able to claim for broadband provision.</p> <p>(ii) subject to (i) above, that the draft Schedule of Members Remuneration be approved for publication and submission to the IRPW.</p>	<p>To comply with the Regulations as set by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales.</p>

Relevant Policy (ies):			
Within Policy:	Y	Within Budget:	Y / N

Relevant Local Member(s):	
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Person(s) To Implement Decision:	Wyn Richards, Scrutiny Manager and Head of Democratic Services
Date By When Decision To Be Implemented:	July 31 2017.

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Background Papers used to prepare Report: