

**CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL**

**30 July 2020**

**REPORT AUTHOR: Head of Finance (Section 151 Officer)**

**SUBJECT: Member Allowances and Expenses 2019-20**

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**REPORT FOR: Information**

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**1. Introduction**

- 1.1 This report sets out the annual amounts paid and reimbursed to Members and Co-opted Members during the tax year 2019-20, relating to allowances and expenses.
- 1.2 This is in accordance with the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (IRPW) requirements. The information in this report acts as a public document and will be available on the Powys County Council Internet and in the Publication Scheme. The deadline for publication of the information is the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

**2. Allowances**

- 2.1 Appendix A provides the statutory information that is put into the public domain each year relating to Members and Co-opted Members allowances and expenses including;
- 2.1.1 Member/Co-opted Member Name
  - 2.1.2 Ward
  - 2.1.3 Basic Salary / Allowance
  - 2.1.4 Senior / Civic Salaries
  - 2.1.5 Care Allowance
  - 2.1.6 Working Expenses
  - 2.1.7 Subsistence
  - 2.1.8 Travel

**3. Summary of Payments**

- 3.1 2019/20 evidences an overall decrease of 1.44% in payments to Members in the financial year ending 31 March 2020, when comparing to the financial year ending 31 March 2019.
- 3.2 The Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales awarded Members a 1.97% increase to the annual Basic Salary rate (£13,600 to £13,868) effective from the Councils AGM on 16/05/2019. The total Basic Salary was therefore expected to increase during 2019/20, however the actual increase only equated to 0.77%. The lower than anticipated increase is mainly attributed to three Members resigning during the year, resulting in vacant seats during the by-election periods, with the remaining difference attributed to a small number of Members electing to forego their basic salary increase.

- 3.3 Senior Salary payments decreased by 1.3% (-£2,983), attributed Cabinet Member changes and Committee Chair review.
- 3.4 Care Allowance payments decreased by 90.28% (-£3,420), with fewer members taking up this allowance. It is worth noting that individual care allowance reimbursements are no longer itemised against individual members, but as a total figure.
- 3.5 Working Expenses payments increased slightly from £54 to £60, with very few Members now claiming.
- 3.6 There were no claims for Subsistence during the year, compared to £56 in 2018/19.
- 3.7 Travel reimbursements were significantly reduced by £20k (20.22%) from £100k in 2018/19 to £80k in 2019/20.
- 3.7 Payments to Co-opted and Independent Members increased overall by 17.97%. This comprised of an 18.76% increase in Allowances paid and a 13.43% increase in travel reimbursements.

#### **4. Statutory Officers**

- 4.1 The Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer) commented as follows:  
“The recommendation is supported from a legal point of view.”
- 4.2 The Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer notes the content of the report.

#### **5. Members’ Interests**

All Members will have a personal interest in this matter but do not have a prejudicial interest due an exemption within the Code of Conduct for such matters. Members will be required to sign the form declaring their personal interest before the end of the meeting.

<b>Recommendation:</b>	<b>Reason for Recommendation:</b>
<b>That the report is noted.</b>	<b>Ensuring this information is available in the public domain within the required timescale</b>

<b>Relevant Policy (ies):</b>	Members’ Schedule of Remuneration		
<b>Within Policy:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Within Budget:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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