

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

20 July 2023

REPORT AUTHOR: Head of Finance (Section 151 Officer)

SUBJECT: Member Allowances and Expenses 2022-2023

REPORT FOR: Information

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report sets out the annual amounts paid and reimbursed to Members and Co-opted Members during the tax year 2022-23, 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 September 2023.

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 Travel

Due to the 2022 Local Elections, start and end date columns have also been included in the report.

3. Summary of Payments

- 3.1 2022/23 evidences an overall increase of 9.3% (£118.7k) in payments to Members during the financial year ending 31 March 2023, when comparing to the previous financial year ending 31 March 2022.
- 3.2 The Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales awarded Members a 16.93% increase to the annual Basic Salary rate (£14,368 to £16,800) effective from the new Council term on 09 May 2022. The total Basic Salary was therefore expected to increase during 2022/23, however its cost-impact was reduced due the reconfiguration of electoral boundaries, effective from the May 2022 elections, whereby the number of Councillors reduced from 73 to 68.

- 3.3 Due to the IRPW pay increase, Senior Salary payments also increased by 11.65% (£26,662), however when you factor in an £8.8k contribution from the Pension Fund towards the Chair of Pensions and Investment Committee, the actual impact to that element of budget was reduced to an increase of 7.8%.
- 3.4 Contribution towards the Cost of Care and Personal Assistance (CCCPA) payments totalling £110 were claimed during 2022/23. Council previously agreed that from May 2019, the Council only publishes the total amount reimbursed for costs of care by the authority during the year but not attributed to any named member, hence why the figure only shows in the overall Totals.
- 3.5 Working Expenses claims totalled £32 during 2022/23.
- 3.6 There were no claims for Subsistence during 2022/23.
- 3.7 Travel reimbursements increased by £5.9k to £8.7k during 2022/23 when compared to 2021/22, primarily due to the increased number of face to face meetings following the easing of Covid-19 restrictions, however it is important to note that pre-pandemic travel expenses were in the region of £80k per annum, and the use of online and hybrid meetings significantly reduces costs as well as the positive impact on the environment.
- 3.7 Payments to Co-opted and Independent Members increased by circa 12% totalling £23.8k, due to an increased number of meetings, however still remains considerably less than the 2019/20 pre pandemic of £37k.

4. Statutory Officers

- 4.1 The Head of Legal Services and the Monitoring Officer commented as follows: "The recommendation is supported from a legal point of view."
- 4.2 The Head of Finance (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.

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

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

Contact Officer Name:	Tel:	Email:
Graham Evans	01597 826609	graham.evans@powys.gov.uk