

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

Democratic Services Committee – 29 April 2019

REPORT BY:	Head of Democratic Services
SUBJECT:	Reimbursement of Costs of Care
REPORT FOR:	Decision, and Discussion

1. Purpose of Report

To consider amending how the Reimbursement of Costs of Care to Members are publicised.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Annual Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (IRPW) contains provisions for the reimbursement to Members of the costs of care which allows individuals who have personal support needs or caring responsibilities to carry out their duties effectively as a member of the Council. Relevant sections of the report are attached as **Appendix 1**. The IRPW states in its report:

“The Panel believes that additional costs of care required to carry out approved duties should not deter any individual from becoming and remaining a member of an authority or limit their ability to carry out the role.”

- 2.2 Councils therefore must provide for the reimbursement of necessary costs for the care of dependent children and adults (provided by formal or informal carers) and for personal assistance needs up to a maximum of £403 per month. Reimbursement must be for the additional costs incurred by members in order for them to carry out their approved duties. Reimbursement shall only be made on production of receipts from the carer.

3. Publication of the Costs of Care

- 3.1 The IRPW provides two options in its Annual Report regarding the publication of the reimbursement of costs of care namely:
- (i) the details of the amounts reimbursed to named members; or
 - (ii) the total amount reimbursed by the authority during the year but not attributed to any named member.

It is a matter for each authority to decide which option it considers appropriate.

- 3.2 At present the Council has adopted option (i) for the publication of the reimbursement of the costs of care.
- 3.3 However at all Wales officer and Member network meetings concern has been raised that the publication of individual details has led at times to adverse comments being made to individual Members from Members of their own authorities, and it has also been suggested that disclosing this information on an individual basis might be preventing individual Members who would be eligible to claim under these provisions from doing so.
- 3.4 The Monitoring Officer has in addition, raised a concern that disclosing such information which could identify where individual Members have dependents might be a breach of personal data.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 The Committee is requested to consider whether to recommend to the County Council that from May 2019 onwards the Council only publishes the total amount reimbursed by the authority during the year but not attributed to any named member

RECOMMENDATION	Reason for Recommendation:
That the Committee provides its views on how the Council should be publishing the reimbursement of the costs of care.	To review the approach to the Reimbursement of the Costs of Care

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