

**CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.**

**COUNTY COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING**

**18 May 2023**

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

**SUBJECT: Members' Salaries, Allowances and Expenses**

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**REPORT FOR: Decision**

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**1. Purpose and Reason for Report**

1.1 To receive the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (IRPW) in respect of the amounts to be paid as Basic Salary, Senior Salary and Civic Salaries, to approve the number of Senior salary positions which are remunerated and to approve the publication of the Members Schedule of Remuneration 2023/2024.

**2. Background**

2.1 Part 8 (sections 141 to 160) and schedules 2 & 3 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 (the Measure) set out the arrangements for the payments and pensions for Members of relevant authorities such as Powys County Council and the functions and responsibilities of the IRPW.

2.2 The IRPW produced its annual report for 2023/2024 in February of this year (the IRPW Report) and this prescribes the actual level of payments to Members. The IRPW Report can be accessed at <https://gov.wales/independent-remuneration-panel-wales>

2.3 Following the 2022/2023 uplift to the basic salary of £2,432, (16.93%), effective from 9<sup>th</sup> May 2022, the IRPW Panel has this year decided to award a further uplift in 2023/2024 to the basic salary of £800 (4.76%). **The IRPW stipulate that the increase must be applied effective from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 unless any individual member opts personally and in writing to receive a lower amount.** Members were notified of this increase being applied to pay in April 2023.

2.4 The IRPW Regulations require all Councils to produce annually a Schedule of Member Remuneration (the Schedule of Member Remuneration) which in essence is a list setting out a Council's decisions in respect of payments to be made during the municipal year to all Members and Co-Opted Members of the Council.

2.5 The Schedule of Member Remuneration must be produced no later than 4 weeks following the annual meeting of the Council. The IRPW Regulations also requires that as soon as practicable after determining

its Schedule of Remuneration for the year and in any event no later than 31<sup>st</sup> July the Council must make arrangements for the schedule's publication.

- 2.6 The following paragraphs of this report set out the main elements and details relating to the payment of prescribed salaries, allowances and fees to Members and Co-Opted Members of Powys County Council for the financial year 2023/24 in accordance with statute, the IRPW Report and the IRPW Regulations and include details of what are effectively current arrangements arising out of decisions previously taken by Council which continue in force and which Council is asked to formally endorse. They form the basis for the production of the Schedule of Member Remuneration. Some matters however (such as senior salaries) require specific decisions by Council and these are highlighted in the following paragraphs of this report.

### 3. Basic Salary

- 3.1 The IRPW have determined that the basic salary level for Members of principal local authorities will be uplifted by £800 per annum from £16,800 to £17,600 per annum, effective from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023. The annual Basic Salary of £17,600 **MUST** be paid to all Councillors.
- 3.2 **However**, as with all three types of salaries (basic, senior and civic) a Member may elect to forego the whole or part of the Basic Salary. This is a decision for the individual Member and is not a matter for Council. To forego a salary a Member or Co-Opted Member must notify the **Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer)** in writing, confirming the date in which the election should be implemented from.
- 3.3 This salary remains payable during a period of family absence (as defined in Part 2 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure, 2011). It will not be paid during any period of suspension.
- 3.4 Where the term of office of a Member begins or ends other than at the beginning or end of the financial year, the entitlement of that Member will be pro-rated accordingly.
- 3.5 Accordingly there is **no specific decision** of Council required at this time in respect of the Basic Salary.

### 4. Senior Salary

- 4.1 The IRPW Report provides that Powys **may** pay a Senior Salary to a maximum of 18 councillors in the prescribed responsibility bands. The Council has a total discretion as to how many Senior Salaries it allocates but it **must not** allocate more than 18 in total and if it allocates a Senior Salary it **must** be paid at the rate set out below. **The Council has previously decided that a maximum of 17 Senior Salary payments should be allocated.** However, it is noted that the maximum number of 18 can be exceeded for any period in which a

temporary office holder substitutes for the family absence of an appointed office holder.

- 4.2 A Member can only receive one Senior Salary. A Member in receipt of a Senior Salary as Leader or Cabinet Member may not receive a second salary as a member appointed to serve on a National Park authority or a Welsh fire and rescue authority, or another payment as a Member of a Town and Community Council (other than travel and subsistence expenses and a contribution towards Costs of Care and Personal Assistance (CCCPA)).
- 4.3 Where a Member does not have, throughout the year, specific responsibilities that allow entitlement to a Senior Salary, that Member's payment will be pro-rated accordingly.
- 4.4 This salary remains payable during a period of family absence. It will not be paid during any period of suspension.
- 4.5 The Senior Salary comprises an amalgam of the Basic Salary and an additional amount for the relevant specific responsibility. It is not paid in addition to the Basic Salary.
- 4.6 If the Leader is allocated a Senior Salary he or she would receive a Band 1, LA Group B payment of £59,400 (inclusive of the basic salary). If the Deputy Leader is allocated a Senior Salary he or she would receive a Band 1, LA Group B payment of £41,580 (inclusive of the basic salary). Cabinet Members allocated a Senior Salary would receive a Band 2, LA group B payment of £35,640 (inclusive of the basic salary). If there is more than 1 Deputy Leader, the difference between the Cabinet Member Senior Salary and the Deputy Leader Senior Salary should be divided between the number of Deputy Leaders.
- 4.7 The statutory maximum a Council may appoint to Cabinet (including Leader) is 10 (However, job sharing for up to 3 Cabinet posts is allowed for within the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 as referred to in the Constitution). The remaining allocation of Senior Salaries can be allocated accordingly up to a maximum of 17 (as amended by Council – maximum according to IRPW is set at 18).
- 4.8 The 2023 IRPW report further states: "To allow greater flexibility councils have the opportunity to apply for specific or additional senior salaries that are outside the current remuneration framework, or cannot be accommodated within the maximum number of senior salaries relating to the authority. If the proposed addition is approved and results in the council exceeding its cap, this will be included in the approval (subject to not exceeding 50% of the council membership – the proportion fixed by the Panel may not exceed fifty percent unless the consent of the Welsh Minister has been obtained). Some councils have raised the possibility of operating some senior salary posts on a job share arrangement. The Panel is supportive of this principle, on the

basis that it supports diversity and inclusion, and the process is set out under job sharing arrangements”.

4.9 Previously, Council agreed that Senior Salaries be allocated to the chairs of the following committees:

- (a) Health and Care Scrutiny Committee
- (b) Learning and Skills Scrutiny Committee
- (c) Planning, Taxi Licensing and Rights of Way Committee
- (d) Economy, Residents, and Communities Scrutiny Committee

An Independent Lay Member chairs the Governance and Audit Committee and is remunerated at the higher co-opted member rate (see paragraph 7.1)

4.10 Council previously agreed that the Leader of the largest opposition group will receive a Senior Salary. It is a determination of the IRPW that the Council must pay a Senior Salary to the Leader of the largest opposition group, providing that group contains not less than 10% of all Council Members. The Leader of the largest opposition group would receive a Band 4, LA group B payment of £26,400 (inclusive of basic salary).

4.11 If the Council wishes, senior salaries could be allocated to the following categories of post holder as per the prescribed responsibility bands:-

- |     |  |         |
|-----|--|---------|
| (a) | Deputy Leader (BAND 1 - LA GROUP B)  | £41,580 |
| (b) | Committee Chair (BAND 3)   | £26,400 |
| (c) | Leader of political groups not less than 10% of all council members (BAND 4) | £21,340 |

**NB** These salaries are inclusive of, and are not additional to, the basic salary of £17,600.

As with the basic salary the amount of a Senior Salary is a fixed absolute sum and is not a maximum.

4.12 Regulations stipulate that Council must publish the Schedule of Remuneration within 4 weeks of its AGM or no later than 31<sup>st</sup> July 2022, as such it is recommended that the allocations of Senior Salaries (as outlined in the 2023/2024 Schedule of Remuneration) are approved.

4.13 Council is therefore requested **to decide** the allocation of up to 17 Senior Salaries.

## **5. Sickness Absence for Senior Salary Holders**

5.1 The Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales has amended the framework to provide specific arrangements for the long term sickness of Senior Salary Holders as follows:

- (a) Long term sickness if defined as certified absences in excess of 4 weeks.
- (b) The maximum length of sickness within these proposals is 26 weeks or until the individual's term of office ends, whichever is sooner (but if reappointed any remaining balance of the 26 weeks will be included).
- (c) Within these parameters a senior salary holder on long term sickness can, if the authority decides continue to receive the remuneration for the post held.
- (d) It is a decision of the authority whether to make a substitute appointment, but the substitute will be eligible to be paid the senior salary appropriate to the post.
- (e) If the paid substitution results in the authority exceeding the maximum number of senior salaries payable for that authority, an addition will be allowed for the duration of the substitution. However this would not apply in respect of a council executive member if it would result in the cabinet exceeding 10 posts – the statutory maximum.
- (f) When an authority agrees a paid substitution the Panel must be informed within 14 days of the decision of the details including the specific post and the estimated length of the substitution. The authority's Schedule of Remuneration must be amended accordingly.
- (g) It does not apply to elected members of principal councils who are not senior post holders as they continue to receive basic salary for at least six months irrespective of attendance and any extension beyond this timescale is a matter for the authority. It does not also apply to co-opted members.

## **6. Civic Salary**

- 6.1 The IRPW sets the payments to the Chair and Vice Chair at Band 3 and 5 salaries respectively, these being £26,400 for Chair and £21,340 for Vice Chair. These payments are inclusive of the basic salary of £17,600.
- 6.2 A Councillor must not be paid a Senior Salary and a Civic Salary.
- 6.3 A Civic Salary will not be paid during any period of suspension.
- 6.4 There is no provision to pay an Assistant Vice-Chair.
- 6.5 A Civic Salary will be apportioned on the same basis as a Senior Salary for part year service (see paragraph 4.3 above).
- 6.6 These 2 posts do not count towards the maximum number of 18 Senior Salaries which the Council may allocate.
- 6.7 Accordingly there is **no specific decision** of Council required at this time in respect of Civic Salaries.

## 7. Co-Opted Member Payment

7.1 The Council **must** pay the following daily fee/half daily fee to those Co-Opted members indicated below:-

Co-Opted Chair, Standards Committee Co-Opted Chair, Governance and Audit Committee	£268 daily fee (over 4 hours) (£134 for half a day – up to 4 hours)
Co-Opted Member who Chairs the Standards Community Sub-Committee	£268 daily fee (over 4 hours) (£134 for half a day – up to 4 hours)
Statutory Co-optees - Standards Committee, Learning and Skills Scrutiny Committee (Dealing with Education Matters), Governance and Audit Committee, Economy, Residents and Communities Scrutiny Committee (dealing with Crime and Disorder matters).	£210 daily fee (over 4 hours) (£105 for half a day – up to 4 hours)

7.2 This fee is payable by claim but only paid to VOTING co-optees so the single Co-Opted Member on the Economy, Residents, and Communities Scrutiny Committee (post currently vacant) is not eligible to receive this fee as currently this position is non-voting.

7.3 County Council previously agreed the following on 24<sup>th</sup> October, 2013:

- (i) That the maximum number of days for which the Standards Committee Lay Members and Standards Sub-Committee Town and Community Council Representatives may be paid from the Council AGM 2014 be 10 days.
- (ii) That the maximum number of days for which the Standards Committee Lay Member who Chairs the Committee may be paid from the Council AGM 2014 be 12 days.
- (iii) That the maximum number of days for which the Church Representatives may be paid from the Council AGM 2015 be 15 days.
- (iv) That the maximum number of days for which the Parent Governor representatives may be paid from the Council AGM 2014 be 20 days.
- (v) That, following County Council agreement on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2015, the maximum number of days for which the Audit Committee Lay Member may be paid from the Council AGM 2015 be 25 days on an interim basis.

7.4 Payments can include a reasonable pre meeting preparation time as well as time travelling to and from meetings as well as authorised training events, conferences and pre-meetings with officers, or any other formal event to which co-opted members are requested to attend.

7.5 Accordingly there is **no specific decision** of Council required at this time in respect of the Co-Opted Member Payment.

## **8. Contribution towards Costs of Care and Personal Assistance (CCCPA)**

8.1 A Contribution towards Costs of Care and Personal Assistance shall be paid:

- (i) to a Member or Co-opted Member with primary caring responsibilities for a child or adult and or personal support needs where these are not covered by statutory or other provision.
- (ii) for personal support. This might also include a short term or recent condition not covered by the Equality Act 2010, access to work, Personal Payments, insurance or other provision.
- (iii) provided the Member incurs expenses in the provision of such care whilst undertaking 'approved' council duties

8.2 Members able to claim CCCPA for actual and receipted costs as follows:

- Formal (registered with Care Inspectorate Wales) care costs to be paid as evidenced.
- Informal (unregistered) care costs to be paid up to a maximum rate equivalent to the Real UK Living Wage at the time the costs are incurred.

For clarification, care costs cannot be paid to someone who is part of the member's household.

8.3 Approved duties for which CCCPA can be claimed include:

- (i) Meetings – formal (those called by the Authority) and those necessary to members' work (to deal with constituency but not party issues) and personal development (training, and appraisals.)
- (ii) Travel – in connection with meetings.
- (iii) Preparation – reading and administration are part of a member's role. Some meetings and committees require large amounts of reading, analysis or drafting before or after a meeting.
- (iv) Senior salary holders with additional duties may have higher costs.

8.4 CCCPA payments must not be made:

- In respect of any child over the age of fifteen years or dependant unless the Member/Co-Opted Member satisfies the authority that the child or dependant required supervision which has caused the

Member/Co-Opted Member to incur expenses that were necessary in respect of the care of that child or dependant in the carrying out of the duties of a Member or Co-Opted Member;

- To more than one Member/Co-Opted Member in relation to the care of the same child or dependant;
- Of more than one care allowance to a Member or Co-Opted Member of the authority who is unable to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the authority that the Member/Co-Opted Member has to make separate arrangements for the care of different children or dependants.

8.5 Additional guidance from the IRPW worth noting:

- (i) Members should not be “out of pocket” subject to the limit set in the Annual Report.
- (ii) Models of care and needs vary.
- (iii) Members may use a combination of several care options.
- (iv) Patterns of care may alter over the civic and academic year.
- (v) Not all care is based on hourly (or part hourly) rates.
- (vi) Where a whole session must be paid for, this must be reimbursed even where the care need is only for part of a session.
- (vii) Members may need to:
  - (a) book and pay for sessions in advance
  - (b) commit to a block contract: week, month or term
  - (c) pay for sessions cancelled at short notice
- (viii) Where care need straddles two sessions both should be reimbursed.

8.6 Members claiming CCCPA will be required to complete a declaration form prior to their first claim.

8.7 CCCPA will be paid to Members and Co-Opted Members monthly in arrears **ONLY** where the Member or Co-Opted Member has submitted in writing a fully completed and signed Carer’s Claim Form and has produced receipts from the carer in respect of which the claim is made **PROVIDED ALWAYS** that no such claim will be paid which is in respect of a month or months which are more than 2 month’s prior to the date the claim is received by the Council **UNLESS** that payment is authorised by the Standards Committee on the application of the Member or Co-Opted Member. The decision of the Standards Committee in this connection will be final.

8.8 Accordingly there is **no specific decision** of Council required at this time in respect of CCCPA, however the changed conditions for claim to encourage members to access this support should be noted.



- 8.9 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.

## 9 Travel allowance

- 9.1 The IRPW prescribed Travel Allowance payments will be made to Members and Co-Opted Members in respect of costs incurred in the performance of the **official business** of the Council (see below).

- 9.2 The mileage rates which can be claimed for travel using the Member's own private vehicle are the current HMRC rates:-

- Private motor car up to 10,000 miles – 45p per mile
- Private motor car over 10,000 miles – 25p per mile
- Passenger supplement – 5p per passenger per mile
- Private motor cycles – 24p per mile
- Bicycles – 20p per mile

- 9.3 The payment of travel allowance based on these mileage rates is subject to the following:

- Claims must only be for the actual journey undertaken on Council business. Claimants are expected to use the shortest reasonably practicable route.
- Where a friend or relative, who is not a Member, transports a non-driving Member the same scale of rates will apply to the journey as if it were the Member's own vehicle.
- All mileage claims should be submitted with valid fuel VAT receipts. Members submitting claims through iTrent Self Service are required to indicate whether a VAT receipt has been obtained, **this must be retained for 6 years by the Member and provided when requested (or submitted to the Council at the end of their Councillor term)**. Alternatively, Members may submit VAT receipts after each claim submission, in a sealed envelope marked as confidential, referencing the claim date, to the Professional Lead for Employment Services, County Hall, Llandrindod Wells.
- **The Council reserves the right to audit claims, including requesting evidence of valid VAT receipts. Failure to produce VAT receipts where declared could result in recovery of the associated pay element. Please note receipts used to claim VAT elsewhere cannot be duplicated and used for Council business.**

9.4 From April 2016, travel expenses paid to Members by the Council are exempt from Income Tax and employee National Insurance Contributions.

9.5 All other claims for travel will be reimbursed on production of a receipt showing the actual expense. Members should always be mindful of choosing the most cost-effective method of travel:-

- Rail fare will be reimbursed up to a maximum of first class rates.
- Air fares, where appropriate, will be reimbursed at the ordinary fare.
- Taxi fares where suitable alternative public transport is not available.

9.6 **Official business** has the meaning contained in Section 142 (10) of the Measure in relation to the payment of allowances for care, travel and subsistence as reimbursement of expenses necessarily incurred by Members and Co-Opted Members when:

*a duty undertaken for the purpose of or in connection with the discharge of the functions of Chair of the County Council or of a committee;*

- (a) Attending a meeting of the Authority or any committee of the Authority or any body to which the Authority makes appointments or nominations or of any committee of such a body;
- (b) Attending a meeting of any association of authorities of which the Authority is a member;
- (c) Attending a meeting, the holding of which is authorised by the Authority or by a committee of the Authority or by a joint committee of the Authority and one or more other authorities;
- (d) Attending any training or development event approved by the Authority or the Cabinet;
- (e) A duty undertaken for the purpose of or in connection with the discharge of the functions of an executive within the meaning of Part 2 of the 2000 Act, as amended;
- (f) a duty undertaken in pursuance of a Standing Order which requires a Member or Members to be present when tender documents are opened;
- (g) A duty undertaken in connection with the discharge of any function of the Authority to inspect or authorise the inspection of premises;

- (h) A duty undertaken by Members in connection with constituency or ward responsibilities which arise from the discharge of local authority functions;
- (i) Any other duty approved by the Authority, or any duty of class so approved, undertaken for the purpose of, or in connection with, the discharge of the functions of the Authority or of any of its committees.

9.7 In relation to (i) above in respect of the other duties approved by the Council the following decisions have been previously made:-

9.7.1 When a Councillor attends a meeting of a committee of which he/she is not a Member they would need to justify such attendance in order to qualify for the payment of travel allowance. Otherwise the expenditure on travel in attending the meeting will not be paid. Councillors should check with the Chief Finance Officer before attending so that they know before attending if they qualify to receive travelling.

9.7.2 Members will qualify for payment of travel allowance notwithstanding that the Councillor is attending a meeting of a committee of which he/she is not a Member:-

- (i) Where a Group Leader, Scrutiny Committee Chair and Vice Chair and Audit Committee Chair and Vice Chair attends a meeting of the Cabinet.
- (ii) Where a Councillor (who is not a Member of the Regulatory Committee) exercises the right as a Local Representative to attend and address the Regulatory Committee in accordance with the Council's Planning Protocol.
- (iii) Where a Councillor attends a meeting of a committee of which he/she is not a Member and is allowed to address the committee on an item of business before it.
- (iv) Where a Councillor attends a meeting of the Cabinet and is allowed to address the meeting with the consent of the Executive Member presiding.

9.7.3 Attendance by a Councillor at a meeting of a committee of which he or she is not a member outside of the circumstances detailed above shall not qualify the Councillor to receive payments by way of travelling allowances in respect of attending such a meeting.

9.7.4 Where a travel allowances is recoverable by a Member from an outside organisation in respect of duties carried out by the Member in connection with that outside organisation, the Member is not eligible to also claim a travel allowance or subsistence allowance expenses from Powys County Council in respect of those duties.

9.7.5 A Travel Allowance will be paid to Members and Co-Opted Members monthly in arrears ONLY where the Member or Co-Opted Member has submitted in writing a fully completed and signed Travel Allowance Claim Form and has produced receipts for those journeys in respect of which the claim is made PROVIDED ALWAYS that no such claim will be paid which is in respect of a month or months which are more than 2 months prior to the date the claim is received by the Council UNLESS that payment is authorised by the Standards Committee on the application of the Member or Co-Opted Member. The decision of the Standards Committee in this connection will be final.

## **10. Subsistence Allowance**

10.1 A Subsistence Allowance **must** be payable when official business requires a Member or Co-Opted Member to travel beyond county boundaries when additional subsistence costs may be incurred. In this case, reimbursement of subsistence, subject to the limits set out below, is acceptable. All claims must be supported by receipts:

- A maximum of £28.00 per day, including breakfast if not included in overnight cost;
- Overnight costs to a maximum of £200 in London and £95 elsewhere,
- A maximum of £30 per night if staying with friends or relatives. (not payable in Powys according to the IRPW document)

10.2 Wherever possible, overnight accommodation should be reserved and paid for by the Council itself. There may be circumstances where the authority deems it reasonable and cost effective to arrange overnight accommodation within the Council area.

10.3 A Subsistence Allowance is claimable for official business within the county by a Co-Opted Member who lives outside of the County.

10.4 Those provisions concerning “official business” in Sections 8.5 and 8.6 above relating to the Travel Allowance apply equally to the Subsistence Allowance subject to the overriding requirement of the performance of the official business being outside the boundaries of the county.

10.5 The rates prescribed are in-line with Welsh Government rates.

10.6 Accordingly there is **no specific decision** of Council required at this time in respect of the Subsistence Allowance.

## **11. Arrangements for the Payments of Salaries, Allowances and Fees**

11.1 BASIC AND SENIOR SALARIES will be paid automatically in the current month and Members and (in respect of Senior Salaries) Co-Opted Members will not be required to submit any claim or demand.

- 11.2 CIVIC SALARIES will be paid automatically in the current month and neither the Chair nor the Vice-Chair of the Council will be required to submit any claim or demand.
- 11.3 CO-OPTED MEMBER PAYMENTS and TRAVEL AND SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCE will be paid to Co-Opted Members monthly in arrears ONLY where the Co-Opted Member has submitted in writing or on line a fully completed Co –opted Member Claim Form.
- 11.4 A Contribution towards Costs of Care and Personal Assistance (CCCPA) will be paid to Members and Co-Opted Members monthly in arrears ONLY where the Member or Co-Opted Member has submitted in writing or on line a fully completed Carer’s Claim Form and has produced receipts from the carer in respect of which the claim is made.
- 11.5 TRAVEL & SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCES will be paid to Members ONLY where the Member has submitted an on-line fully completed Travel & Subsistence Allowance Claim Form and has produced and retains receipts for those journeys and or subsistence in respect of which the claim is made. Paper claims forms will not be accepted.
- 11.6 PROVIDED ALWAYS that no claim in respect of:-
- A Co-Opted member’s Payment
  - Care Allowance; or
  - A Travel and/or Subsistence Claim

will be paid which is in respect of a month or months which are more than 3 month’s prior to the date the claim is received by the Council UNLESS that payment is authorised by the Standards Committee on the application of the Member or Co-Opted Member. The decision of the Standards Committee in this connection will be final.

- 11.7 No person other than the Member or Co-Opted Member submitting the claim may complete or amend a claim. Where Members require assistance with inputting claims via iTrent Self Service, ICT and system login passwords must not be disclosed to anyone. It is the Members responsibility to check and authorise the submission.**
- 11.8 All on-line claims input via iTrent Self Service must be submitted no later than the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month, the claim can include expenses incurred up to and including the 15<sup>th</sup>, and will be paid with the basic/senior/civic salary at the end of the month in which the claim is submitted. Any amendments to this date will be communicated accordingly.
- 11.9 Queries relating to pay should be directed to Dai Davies, Payroll Team Manager, Employment Services, County Hall.  
(telephone 01597 826313, email [david.davies@powys.gov.uk](mailto:david.davies@powys.gov.uk))

## **12. Office and Other Costs and Tax Relief**

- 12.1 Where Members incur office and other costs they may claim tax relief.
- 12.2 Details of the arrangement reached with H.M. Revenues and Customs are available from Employment Services.

## **13. Arrangements for the Repayment of Salaries, Allowances and Fees**

- 13.1 The IRPW require Councils to make specific provision in this regard and therefore the following arrangements comply in that regard.
- 13.2 Where such part of a Salary, Allowance or Fee which has been paid to a Member or Co-Opted Member was in respect of a period during which the Member or Co-Opted Member concerned was in any way not entitled to receive such Salary, Allowance or Fee (including when the Member or Co-Opted Member was suspended, partially suspended or ceased to be a Member or Co-Opted Member of the Council) the Chief Finance Officer will serve written notice on the Member or Co-Opted Member specifying the amount or amounts which the Member or Co-Opted Member is required to re-pay to the Council whereupon that amount or those amounts will become re-payable to the Council.
- 13.3 The Chief Finance Officer will serve such written notice as soon as reasonably practicable after becoming aware that such re-payment or re-payments is/are due from the Member or Co-Opted Member.
- 13.4 Such written notice will specify the period or periods over which the re-payment is to be made and whether or not it is to be by way of deduction from future payments of Salary, Allowance, or Fees which will be due in future to the Member or Co-Opted Member in question.
- 13.5 Such re-payment will in any event be concluded within 6 months of the date of such written notice by the Chief Finance Officer.
- 13.6 Any Member or Co-Opted Member who receives such written notice from the Chief Finance Officer may request that the matter be referred to the Council's Standards Committee whose decision will be final.

## **14. Foregoing Salaries, Allowances or Fees**

- 14.1 Any Member or Co-Opted Member may serve written notice on the Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer) electing to forego any part of their entitlement to a Salary, Allowance or Fee for that financial year. A Member will be required to resubmit this **written notice** to the **Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer)** for **each subsequent financial**

**year** that they elect to forego any part of their entitlement to a Salary, Allowance or Fee.

- 14.2 A Member or Co-Opted Member who has served such written notice will receive confirmation in writing from the Chief Finance Officer setting out the details of the revised payments the Member or Co-Opted Member will receive as a result of such election to forego and the Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer) will amend the Schedule accordingly.

## **15. Withholding of Allowances – Suspension of Member**

- 15.1 Where a Member/Co-Opted Member is suspended or partially suspended from being a Member/Co-Opted Member of the Council, the part of each salary and allowance payable to that Member/Co-Opted Member in respect of the responsibilities or duties from which that Member/Co-Opted Member is suspended or partially suspended will be withheld by the Authority. If the partial suspension relates only to the specific responsibility element of the Senior Salary payment, the Member may retain the Basic Salary.

## **16. Pensions**

- 16.1 The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 provides power to the IRPW to make determinations on pension entitlement for elected members of principal councils.
- 16.2 The IRPW has determined the entitlement to join the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) shall apply to all eligible members of principal councils.
- 16.3 Powys County Council has previously determined that its Members should be entitled to join the LGPS.

## **17. Determinations of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (IRPW)**

- 17.1 The Council is asked to note the determinations of the IRPW in respect of the amounts to be paid to Councillors and Co-Opted Members as wherever the Council makes payments in accordance with the IRPW's Annual Report, it is required to pay at the rate set by the IRPW.

## **18. Budgetary Implications**

- 18.1 The IRPW's Annual Report stipulates that the increase to Members Basic Salary must be applied by the Council. The additional budget pressure has been incorporated in the budget for 2023/24.

## 19. Decisions required at Annual Meeting

19.1 Council is required to take the following decisions in connection with the salaries, allowances and fees that are payable to Members and Co-Opted Members of the Council in accordance with statute and the regulations and annual report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (IRPW):-

(a) to consider for approval for the existing allocation of up to 17 Senior Salaries (as amended from the maximum 18 by Council) as detailed in paragraph section 4 of this report.

(b) subject to any amendments during or following this meeting, to approve the publication of the Members' Schedule of Remuneration based on this report.

<b>Recommendation:</b>	<b>Reason for Recommendation:</b>
<b>That Members:</b> <b>(i) approve the recommendation for the allocation of up to 17 (as amended) Senior Salaries as detailed in section 4 of this report.</b>  <b>(ii) Subject to any amendments during or following this meeting, to approve the publication of the Members' Schedule of Remuneration based on this report.</b>	<b>To take decisions relating to Members' Salaries, Allowances and Expenses in accordance with statute and the annual report and regulations of the IRPW.</b>

<b>Relevant Policy (ies):</b>			
<b>Within Policy:</b>	<b>Y</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, Graham Evans</b>
<b>Date By When Decision To Be Implemented:</b>	

<b>Contact Officer Name:</b>	<b>Tel:</b>	<b>Fax:</b>	<b>Email:</b>
Graham Evans Wyn Richards	01597 826609 01597 826375		<a href="mailto:graham.evans@powys.gov.uk">graham.evans@powys.gov.uk</a> <a href="mailto:wyn.richards@powys.gov.uk">wyn.richards@powys.gov.uk</a>

### **Background Papers used to prepare Report:**

**IRPW Annual Report February 2023**

**Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021**