

CONSTITUTION AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	Wednesday, 15 th March 2023
Report Subject	Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (IRPW) Annual Report, February 2023
Report Author	Democratic Services Manager

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Each year, the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (IRPW) determines the rates of payment which are to be made to elected and co-opted members of Welsh Local Authorities for the following year.

The IRPW publishes a draft report for consultation each year in the autumn before publishing their final report in February. On the 27th of February 2023, the IRPW published its Annual Report for 2023/24.

There were no changes to the proposals included in its draft report which was considered by this Committee at its meeting in November 2022.

All of the figures provided in the [November report](#) will therefore be implemented from 1 April 2023.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That the Committee notes the Determinations made by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales in their Annual Report for 2023/24.
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	DETAILING THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES (IRPW) 2023/24
1.01	The IRPW produces an annual report that sets out what it has decided the rates of payment to Members and co-optees of Local Authorities in Wales should be for the following year. These are called Determinations.
1.02	A draft Annual Report is sent by the IRPW to Local Authorities in Wales during the autumn each year requesting feedback on their proposals.

	A report was brought before this Committee's November (2022) meeting, and is included as Appendix 1 . Following the meeting, feedback was submitted to the IRPW by the Democratic Services Manager.
1.03	The IRPW is then required to take into account any representations which it receives on the draft report before issuing its final version of the report in February.
1.04	<p>The final Annual Report has now been issued by the IRPW and is included as Appendix 2.</p> <p>There are no material changes to the proposals in respect of the IRPW's determinations included in their draft report. The details included in Appendix 1 will therefore apply for 2023/24.</p> <p>This means the basic salary in 2023/24 for elected members of principal Councils shall be increased to £17,600 with effect from 1st April 2023. Small increases have also been made for Cabinet Members, Council Leaders and their deputies.</p>
1.05	Any member or co-opted member may by notice in writing to the proper officer of the authority elect to forgo any part of their entitlement to a payment under the determination of the Panel for that particular year (as relating to the authority).

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	If all the increases are accepted as per the IRPW report and no members forgo any part of their entitlement to a payment, there will be a budget increase of £61,580 for 2023-24. This has not changed since the report was considered in November 2022.

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	The IRPW consulted on its Annual Report with all County Councils in Wales about their proposals in October 2022. The Council provided feedback in November 2022.

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	The decision to increase Member Salaries is made by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales, not Flintshire County Council.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	<p>Appendix 1: Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (IRPW) draft Annual Report 2023/2024 – Report (November 2022)</p> <p>Appendix 2: Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (IRPW) Annual Report, February 2023</p>

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	<p>The background paper to this report is the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales draft report, attached as an appendix.</p> <p>Contact Officer: Steven Goodrum, Democratic Services Manager Telephone: 01352 702320 E-mail: Steven.Goodrum@flintshire.gov.uk</p>

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	<p>Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (IRPW) – body established by the Welsh Government to determine the level of Local Authority payments to Members.</p> <p>Determinations – the decisions which the IRPW makes.</p> <p>Basic Salary – the salary or allowance which the IRPW determines should be paid to each Member of the Council which for 2023/24 is £17,600.</p> <p>Senior Salary – a senior salary is payable to a Councillor with special responsibility such as the Leader, Deputy Leader, Cabinet Members, Committee Chairs and the leader of the largest opposition group (a Group B Council such as Flintshire may pay up to 18 senior salaries).</p> <p>Civic Salaries – these are the payments made to the Chair and Vice Chair of Council.</p>