

COUNCIL 11th MARCH 2020

REPORT ON INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES REPORT 2020/21

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To formally adopt the non-mandated recommendations in the IRPW report relating to Town and Community Councils and approve non-mandated allowances for 2020/21.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales published its annual report on 19th February 2020.
- 2.2 A link to the full document can be found via the link, with the section relating to Town & Community Councils circulated with this report.

[Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales: annual report 2020 to 2021](#)

3.0 CONTENT OF THE 2020-21 REPORT

- 3.1 The IRPW has had responsibility for determining the remuneration of community and town councils from 2013/14
- 3.2 The Panel recognises the wide variation of the Town and Community Council sector and has proposed three groups based on income or expenditure levels. Abergavenny Town Council will fall into the Group A as it has an income of over £200,000. Town & Community Councils in this category have more mandated payments.
- 3.3 The Panel has in this report mandated some payments, others remain discretionary. **The mandated payments do not require the Town Council to make a formal determination.**

For Abergavenny Town Council these mandated payments are as follows:

- **Must** make available a payment to each of their members of £150 per year to pay for costs incurred in respect of telephone usage, information technology, consumables etc. (Please note that any councillor may forgo this payment by giving notice in writing to the Proper Officer)

- **Must** make available an annual payment of £500 each to a minimum of 1 and a maximum of 5 members in recognition of specific responsibilities. (For

example a Committee Chair. Please note that any councillor may forgo this payment by giving notice in writing)

- **Must** provide for the reimbursement of necessary costs for the care of dependent children and adults up to £403 per month. Reimbursement shall only be made on production of receipts from the carer.

3.4 Other payments are discretionary and require a decision by the council in respect of the payments below:

- Can make payments in respect of travel costs (this remains at 45p per mile)

- Can reimburse subsistence expenses in accordance with list of published rates

- Can pay financial loss compensations for attending approved duties in line with published rates

- Can provide a payment to the Mayor of the Council up to a maximum of £1500, this is in addition to the £150 payment for costs and expenses and if relevant the £500 senior salary if these are claimed (Please note that any councillor may forgo this payment by giving notice in writing)

- Can provide a payment to the deputy Mayor to a maximum of £500 this is in addition to the £150 payment for costs and expenses and if relevant the £500 senior salary if these are claimed (Please note that any councillor may forgo this payment by giving notice in writing)

3.5 The payments to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor are entirely separate from costs set out below that should be covered by the Civic Budget. This arrangement had not been as clearly stated in previous IRPW report and as a consequence the Town Council had not been reimbursing the Mayor and Deputy Mayor accordingly:

- Mileage
- Charitable giving (purchasing tickets, making donations or buying raffle tickets)
- Clothing

3.6 Members in receipt of a Band 1 or Band 2 senior salary from a principal council cannot receive any payment from any Community or Town Council, other than travel and subsistence expenses and reimbursement of costs of care.

3.7 The Town Council is required to publish details of all payments made to individual members in an annual Statement of Payments. This must be published on council noticeboards and/or websites and provided to the Panel no later 30 Sept.

4.0 ELIGIBILITY OF PAYMENTS

4.1 To summarise the following payments would be paid:

- £150 basic allowance to all Councillors
- £500 specific responsibility allowance to the Chairs of Policy & Resources, Environment and People & Communities
- £1500 Mayoral allowance
- £500 Deputy Mayoral allowance
- Reimburse expenditure incurred by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor from the Civic Budget as set out in paragraph 3.5
- Reimbursement of costs of care if requested
- Reimbursement of financial loss payments if requested
- Mileage & subsistence expenses if requested

5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 To formally adopt the non-mandated recommendations of the IRPW as set out in paragraph 3.4 and that these are paid at the start of the financial year except for the specific responsibility payments which will be paid in two instalments given that a review of the Committee Structure is due in September 2020.

5.2 To agree to cover costs as set out in 3.5