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## NORTH WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE

6 September, 2024

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**TITLE:** Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (IRPW)  
– review of remuneration for lay member of Corporate Joint Committees

**AUTHOR:** Iwan Evans, Monitoring Officer

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### 1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1. This report is to update Members on the Determination of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales in relation to the remuneration of lay members of the Corporate Joint Committee.

### 2. DECISION SOUGHT

- 2.1. To note the Determination of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (IRPW).
- 2.2. To adopt an hourly rate for the payment of claims by lay members.

### 3. REASON FOR THE DECISION

- 3.1. As the CJC becomes more established it will be appointing co-opted members who are not Members of any constituent Council. These members are entirely independent from the business of regional and local government, and as lay members bring experiences and skills that benefit the work of the CJC. To support the right diversity and expertise in attracting lay co-optees the IRPW have undertaken a consultation exercise to review the position on remuneration.

### 4. BACKGROUND AND RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1. The IRPW has statutory powers to set the level of remuneration for Members elected and appointed onto the CJC. The Panel reviewed the position on remuneration arrangements for CJs in its Annual 2022/3 report. As CJs were in their infancy it made no determination in relation to salaries, but did reiterate in its report that for all Members there is the opportunity to claim towards a contribution to incurred costs of care, travel and subsistence.
- 4.2. However the IRPW recognise that CJs are maturing with co-optees being appointed to sub-committees and the Governance & Audit Committee, and following a period of consultation have determined that lay members be remunerated as follows: “Lay members of a CJC will be paid on the same basis as co-opted members (lay) with voting rights of other bodies within the local government family” (the Supplementary Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales is at **Appendix 1**).

4.3. The right to claim remuneration became effective from the date of publication (2 August), with the payment rates as follows:

- Lay chairs of committees = hourly rate £33.50; up to 4 hours £134; 4 hours and over £268
- Ordinary lay members with voting rights = hourly rate £29.75; up to 4 hours £119; 4 hours and over £238

4.4. It is the role of Democratic Services to set in advance whether a meeting is programmed for a full or half day. When the meeting is set for a full day, the fee will be paid on this basis even if the meeting finishes within four hours. It can be readily seen that this approach creates unfair and inefficient consequences. It is considered that it would be fairer and more effective if an hourly rate option is adopted which would include preparation and travel.

## 5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1. Set out in the report.

## 6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1. The report covers all legal implications.

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### APPENDICES:

**Appendix 1** Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales - Supplementary Report

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### STATUTORY OFFICERS RESPONSE:

i. **Monitoring Officer:**

Report author.

ii. **Statutory Finance Officer:**

“As the report explains clearly, the remuneration of lay members is set by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales. In recognising the potential anomalies highlighted in paragraph 4.4, I have no objections to adopting the decision sought including the use of an hourly rate where appropriate.”