

MEETING	Democratic Services Committee
DATE	9 June, 2015
SUBJECT	Members' Salaries and Attendance
PURPOSE	To update members on the publication requirements and the Council's plans for meeting those requirements
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PUBLICATRION REQUIREMENTS

1. Members' salaries are a matter of clear public interest. Of course, those salaries are set by the Independent Panel on Financial Remuneration, a fact that distances the decision on those allowances from the councillors themselves, a matter that this Council and others had been seeking for years.
2. In announcing those allowances, the Independent Panel does place responsibilities on the Council to publish the salaries paid, There are two elements to this:-

REQUIREMENT	TIMETABLE
Publish information on the salaries to be paid in 2015/16	By 31 July
Publish information on the salaries and expenses paid to members in 2014/15	By 30 September

THE PLANS FOR PUBLICATION

3. Following the Annual Council Meeting on 14 May 2015, all the appointments to posts that carry an additional salary will have been made soon following the confirmatiuon of Chairs for the year. We will therefore be publishing the Council's proposals soon, doing so on the Council's web-site and sending the information directly to the Panel.
4. With the information on payments made during 2014/15, the plan this year is to do so in an edition of Newyddion Gwynedd, if the timetable allows. However, there have been concerns in the past that the information had been published out of context.
5. The intention this year, like last year, is to do something similar to last year by including a section in Newyddion Gwynedd on the work of members, explaining their work and different responsibilities amongst other issues, with the information on salaries and whether or not a member has produced an Annual Report. In a different report to the Committee, we are consulting if we should also include data about members' attendance in the same edition.

6. In this context also, concerns have been raised over the past few months on the levels of attendance at committee meetings. This has been discussed extensively at a meeting with all the Political Group Leaders and their attention has been drawn to areas of concern about member's attendance, so that those issue can be addressed.

OBSERVATIONS

7. The committee's views on these proposals are sought.