

MEETING	DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE
DATE	22 MARCH, 2016
SUBJECT	FINANCIAL REMUNERATION FOR ELECTED MEMBERS
PURPOSE	To seek the Committee's views on options with financial remuneration for elected members
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BACKGROUND

1. Members will recall that there was a consultation over the winter about draft proposals for next year by the Independent Panel on elected members' remuneration.

2. By now, the final report has been published. Here is the link to the page where the Independent Panel report can be found.

<http://gov.wales/irpwsb/home/publication/2016-17/irp-annual-report-2016-17/?lang=en>

3. Here are the main points of substance:-

- a. No change to the basis salary for the majority of members
- b. No change to the salaries for the Leader and Deputy Leader
- c. Each individual council to decide on setting Cabinet Members on one of two levels, Level 1, £29,000 (as at the moment) or Level 2 (£26,100)
- ch. Each individual council to decide on setting Committee Chairs on one of two level, Level 1, £22,000 (as at the moment) or Level 2 (£20,000)

THE MATTER UNDER CONSIDERATION

4. The decisions of the Independent Remuneration Panel bind councils to make the payments set by them. The only practical way of not making those payments is for an individual member to state that they will not accept all of the payments.

5. However, this issue is different since the Council has the right to decide on the points in 3c and 3ch above. and, in making that decision, the Council should consider not only at which level to set these posts but also whether there is any difference in the responsibilities shouldered in different posts. With regard to the levels of responsibility shouldered by different Cabinet Members, it should be noted that, as a Council, we have made a deliberate effort to share out Cabinet responsibilities as equally as possible. The Council will also need to consider whether there is a difference in the responsibilities shouldered by the committee chairs noted below and, indeed, the chairs of some other committees who do not receive special remuneration, such as the Pensions Committee, Language Committee and, indeed, this committee.

6. At the moment, all Cabinet Members are at Level 1 (£29,000) and all the following committee chairs are on the higher level of payments (£22,000):-

- Scrutiny Committees (X3)
- Audit Committee
- Planning Committee
- Licensing Committee
- Employment Appeals Committee

DECISION

7. The committee's views are sought in order to submit a recommendation to the full Council on what should be paid during the Council's final year, at its next meeting.