

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| COMMITTEE: | COUNTY COUNCIL |
| DATE: | 8 FEBRUARY 2011 |
| TITLE OF REPORT: | MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES |
| PURPOSE OF REPORT: | TO CONSIDER THE REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES |
| REPORT BY: | CORPORATE DIRECTOR (FINANCE) |
| ACTION: | TO DETERMINE RATES OF ALLOWANCES FOR 2011-12 |

The Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales published their Annual Report in December 2010 covering maximum rates of members' allowances in 2011-12.

The County Council resolved on 15 September 2009 :-

“to adopt, as a statement of intent by this Council, that the total cost of members' allowances should not rise over the next three years.”

Nevertheless there is a requirement to review the rates annually in the light of the report of the Remuneration Panel. Minor changes were made in 2010 in response to the previous annual report, while overall honouring the intention to freeze in cash terms.

The Annual Report of the Remuneration Panel recommends freezing the maximum allowance. They also draw attention to a number of authorities, of which Anglesey is one, currently paying less than the maximum (see Annex 1 from their report, attached). Their stance is to encourage authorities to pay at the maximum, for a more consistent outcome.

The budget plans for 2011-12 assume no inflation on the members' allowances budget, consistent with the September 2009 resolution. The neutral thing to do would be to leave the rates of allowances unchanged for 2011-12.

This is a matter reserved to the full Council, which is requested to make a determination concerning members' allowances for 2011-12.

Proposed “Shadow Leader”

Discussions currently under way between political groups on draft protocols due to be presented to the Council in March include establishing a Shadow Executive and position of ‘Shadow Leader’. When these were prepared it was not anticipated that a Shadow Leader would not be Leader of the largest Opposition Group. With Councillor Gareth Winston Roberts having been appointed Shadow Leader but not being a Leader of the largest Group, the Council needs to agree how to handle this situation. At present, the ‘Leader of the Opposition’ allowance is under the regulations payable to the leader of the largest group not represented on the Executive (not necessarily the same as ‘Shadow Leader’), and there is nothing in the regulations or the Remuneration Panel’s reports to allow an allowance to be paid to a Shadow Leader. The Remuneration Panel has a procedure for authorities to apply for allowances to be paid for positions not otherwise specified in their reports, with the support of the full Council, and where full details of the additional responsibilities are to be given.

If a special responsibility allowance is to be attached to the position of Shadow Leader, it would be necessary make an application. This could be done once the protocols are complete, in particular including a job description for this position. If, however, the responsibilities attached to the position are substantially the same as that of a Leader of the Opposition, then it would be difficult to show these were additional responsibilities, unless the Leader of the Opposition allowance were to be discontinued at the same time.

The Council is invited to consider :-

- (a)** Whether it wishes to apply for an allowance to be paid to the position of Shadow Leader, when the protocols come forward to establish this role;
- (b)** Whether this should be instead of, or as well as, the Leader of the Opposition allowance.

**DAVID ELIS-WILLIAMS
CORPORATE DIRECTOR (FINANCE)**

19 JANUARY 2011

