

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL	
Pwyllgor:	Standards Committee
Dyddiad :	11 March 2020
Teitl:	Member Related Issues
Pwrpas yr adroddiad:	To report on progress to date
Awdur:	Head of Democratic Services

1.0 Background

The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on various Member related matters.

1.1 Members Annual Report

I reported to the last meeting on arrangements for the preparation of Annual Reports covering the period 2018/19.

Section 5 of the Local Government Measure (Wales) 2011 places a duty on the County Council to ensure that arrangements are in place to enable Members to publish annual reports on their activities.

In relation to 2018/19 annual reports 28 members have prepared reports to date, and these can be viewed on the Council's website - see link below:

<https://www.anglesey.gov.uk/en/Council/Councillors-AMs-MPs-MEPs/Councillors-Annual-Report.aspx>

Group Leaders have been briefed on arrangements for reports covering 2019/20. The template will be sent to all Members at the end of March and Members will be requested to complete reports by the end of April and they will then be published on the Council's website in June 2020.

1.2 Annual Report on Members' Remuneration 2020/21

The Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales have published their annual report on allowances to be paid in 2020/21. There is very little change besides an increase in the basic salary to £14,218, which is an increase of £350 a year and is the equivalent of 2.5%. There will be no increase to the senior salaries but the total paid will reflect the increase of £350 to the basic salary.

The Panel notes in the annual report that very few members use the provision in the framework to reimburse the costs of care. They recognise the issues relating to the publication of this legitimate expense. This is reflected in the change that has been made to the publication requirements, which is that the relevant authorities should only publish the total amount reimbursed during the year. It will

be a matter for each Authority to decide on their responses to any Freedom of Information requests received. However, it is not intended that details of individual claims should be disclosed.

The Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Annual Report (February 2020) is available here:

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2020-02/annual-report-2020-to-2021.pdf>

The Democratic Services Committee will receive a report on this matter.

1.3 Local Government and Elections (Wales) Bill

Welsh Government has recently consulted on the draft Bill. The Bill covers various key issues that will need attention in the future. A separate report is dealing with the Bill. One aspect of the Bill relates to the publication of official addresses rather than Members' personal addresses on the Council's website. All Members have recently been consulted on this as a result of concerns expressed about personal safety in the Democratic Services Committee before Christmas. Some Members have opted not to publish personal addresses on the Council's website, therefore only the Council's address appears.

2.0 Recommendation:

To note the information contained in this report.

Huw Jones
Head of Democratic Services
2 March 2020