

Isle of Anglesey County Council	
Meeting:	County Council
Date:	24 May 2022
Title of report:	Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Annual Report 2022/23
Report by:	Deputy Chief Executive and Interim Head of Democratic Services / Director of Function – Resources and Section 151 Officer
Purpose of Report:	To accept the Panel's determinations and to confirm the number of senior salary payments from 2022/23

1.0 Background

The Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (the Panel) is independent of central and local government and was initially established to determine the range and levels of allowances payable by county and county borough councils to their elected members and co-opted members with voting rights. Each year the Panel must produce an Annual Report which sets out the type and levels of payments that authorities may or must make available to their members and co-opted members.

The Panel's Annual Report for 2022/23 was published on 24 February 2022 and came into effect on 9 May 2022, to coincide with the new municipal arrangements following the local elections.

Both the salary increases and the increase in the number of elected members have been taken into account in preparing the 2022/23 budget and sufficient funding has been set aside to cover member remuneration.

The main changes that are relevant to this Council are outlined in this report.

2.0 Payments to elected members

2.1 Basic salary

The basic salary in 2022/23 for elected members of principal councils will be **£16,800**.

2.2 Senior and Civic Salary Bands

The senior and civic salaries for 2022/23 are set out in the table below and these salaries include the basic salary:

2022/23 Senior and Civic Salaries		
Senior Salaries		
Band 1	Leader Deputy Leader	£53,550 £37,485
Band 2	Members of the Executive	£32,130
Band 3	Committee Chairs (if paid)	£25,593
Band 4	Leader of largest opposition group	£25,593
Band 5	Leader of other political groups (if paid)	£20,540
Civic Salaries		
Band 3	Civic Head (if paid)	£25,593
Band 5	Deputy Civic Head (if paid)	£20,540

2.3 Number of senior salaries

The Council is required to confirm which post holders will be entitled to receive senior salaries from 2022/23.

With effect from 9 May 2022, the maximum number of senior salaries (“the cap”) for this Council increased from 16 to 17 to reflect the changes in its membership. This new cap still includes civic salaries.

The following 16 post holders were entitled to receive senior salaries in 2021/22:

Chair of the Council
Vice-Chair of the Council
Leader of the Council
Deputy Leader of the Council
Other Executive Members (7)
Leader of the Largest Opposition Group
Chairs of Scrutiny Committees (2)
Chair of the Planning and Orders Committee
Chair of the Governance and Audit Committee

The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 introduced changes to the membership of Governance and Audit Committees, including a requirement that the Chair of the Committee must be a lay person. The relevant fees determined by the Panel for co-opted members will therefore apply to the post of Chair of the Governance and Audit Committee from 2022/23.

3.0 Other changes

3.1 Assistants to the Executive

The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 allows principal councils to appoint elected members to assist the Executive in discharging its functions. Such appointments are made by the Leader of the Council. There are exclusions to the appointments as set out in the legislation and assistants are not members of the Executive.

The Panel has concluded that, until there is more information in respect of the responsibilities attached to the posts, it is not possible to decide on additional payments, if any. It is therefore proposed that this will be further considered when a council decides to make appointments and details of the specific responsibility is available. To give effect to this without the requirement for a further formal report, the following determination will apply:

“Determination 13: The Panel will decide on a case-by-case basis the appropriate senior salary, if any, for assistants to the executive”

3.2 Corporate Joint Committees (CJCs)

The Local Government and Elections Act (Wales) 2021 established CJCs which comprise groups of principal councils. The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 is amended to include CJCs as relevant authorities for the functions of the Panel. Therefore, any payments made to members of a CJC have to be determined by the Panel.

As CJCs are in the early stages of being set up, it is too soon for the Panel to consider whether members of a CJC should be remunerated. Over time, the role responsibility will be evaluated, including any consequential changes to the function and role of the Executive members of the principal council.

However, the payment of contributions to costs of care and personal assistance and travel and subsistence to members of CJCs have been included in the 2022/23 Annual Report.

4.0 Compliance with the Panel’s requirements

The Council’s Annual Schedule of Member Remuneration will be amended to reflect the Panel’s determinations for 2022/23. The Schedule will be published and sent to the Panel as soon as practicable, and not later than 31 July 2022.

5.0 Recommendations

The Council is requested to:

- 5.1 accept the determinations of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales' for 2022/23;
- 5.2 confirm that holders of the same posts as 2021/22 will be entitled to receive senior salaries from 2022/23, with the exception of the post of Chair of the Governance and Audit Committee where the fees determined by the Panel for co-opted members will apply, ie:

Chair of the Council
Vice-Chair of the Council
Leader of the Council
Deputy Leader of the Council
Other Executive Members (7)
Leader of the Largest Opposition Group
Chairs of Scrutiny Committees (2)
Chair of the Planning and Orders Committee

- 5.3 authorise officers to amend Part 6 of the Council's Constitution (Schedule of Member Remuneration) to reflect the determinations made in the 2022/23 Annual Report.

Rhys Howard Hughes
Deputy Chief Executive
and Interim Head of Democratic Services

Marc Jones
Director of Function – Resources
and Section 151 Officer

17 May 2022

Background paper:- The Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Annual Report (February 2022) – <https://gov.wales/independent-remuneration-panel-wales-annual-report-2022-2023>