



## **DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, YSTRAD MYNACH (RHYMNEY ROOM) ON MONDAY 25TH NOVEMBER 2013 AT 5:00PM**

---

---

PRESENT:

Councillor C.P. Mann - Chairman  
Councillor D.T. Davies Vice-Chairman

Councillors:

H. David, R. T. Davies, Mrs C. Forehead, Mrs P. Griffiths, G. Kirby, Mrs D. Price,  
Mrs M.E. Sargent and J. Taylor

Together with:

J. Jones (Democratic Services Manager) and E. Sullivan (Democratic Services Officer)

#### **1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs G. Bevan, P. J. Bevan,  
D. G. Carter, W. David, Mrs E. Stenner, Ms J. G. Jones.

#### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Clarification was sought with regard to declarations of interest as the setting of allowances  
would affect all Members. The Officer confirmed that as this report dealt only with the  
consultation response and required no decision making there was no requirement for  
Members to declare an interest at this stage.

#### **3. MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on the 3rd October 2013 minute nos.  
1-4 on page nos. 1-3 be approved as correct records and signed by the Chairman.

#### **REPORTS OF OFFICERS**

#### **4. DRAFT INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES ANNUAL REPORT 2014/15**

The report advised Members of the draft determinations for the Independent Remuneration  
Panel Annual Report 2014/15 and invited Members comments as part of the consultation  
process.

Mr Jones advised Members that the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales were suggesting a modest increase to Councillors' Basic and Senior Salaries of approximately 1%. The Panel had recently been given new statutory powers associated with setting remuneration for the Head of Paid Service. Guidance was awaited from Welsh Government before this new role took effect.

In terms of Committee Chairs, the Panel proposed the introduction of 3 levels of remuneration with the appropriate level to be determined by each local authority based on the specific duties and responsibilities of the individual Committee Chair. Civic salaries would also be subject to 3 levels of remuneration, again to be determined locally.

The remuneration levels for Chairs of Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committees were detailed and Members were advised that this would be in addition to the Council's maximum 18 senior salaries. It was noted that Welsh Government had published the first draft list of 'Designated Persons' that local authorities would be required to scrutinise. These were noted to include Fire and Rescue and Health services and 3rd Sector organisations such as GAVO. Members were advised that one strategy for implementing this new requirement would be establishing a single Joint Committee for Designated Persons made up of Members from each of the 5 local authorities that make up the former Gwent area.

The proposals in relation to Co-opted Member payments were detailed and Members were advised that these had been broadened to include training, events, conferences, pre-meetings or other formal meetings where their attendance was required. Travel time and reasonable preparation time had also been included within the daily or half daily fee payment. It was noted that a full day was defined as a meeting lasting over 4 hours and a half-day as up to 4 hours.

The proposals for training and development and care expenses were outlined and travel and subsistence allowances confirmed.

The Chair thanked the Officer for his report and Members comments were welcomed.

Members fully discussed the proposals of the Remuneration Panel and unanimously agreed that in consideration of the large cuts to local authority funding and its implications on service delivery there should be no increases to the scheme of Members salaries. Members agreed that the intention to band salaries was inconsistent with the Panel's previous aim of creating a consistent national scheme. This proposal was also considered to be unequal as it provides for local determination of non executive roles but preserves a national standard for executive post holders. In relation to the remuneration of Joint Scrutiny Committee Chairs and Co-opted Members with voting rights, Members supported the proposals in principal.

It was proposed and seconded that Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales be informed of the comments of the Democratic Services Committee as part of the consultation process and by a show of hand this was unanimously agreed.

The meeting closed at 17:51pm

Approved as a correct record subject to any amendments or corrections agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 5th March 2014 there were signed by the Chairman.

---

CHAIRMAN