

## **POLICY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 10TH NOVEMBER 2009**

**SUBJECT: BUDGET MONITORING 2009/10 – MEMBERS’ ALLOWANCES**

**REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES**

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### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To provide information relating to the projected outturn on Members’ Allowances for 2009/2010.

### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Every local authority in Wales is required to adopt an annual scheme of members’ allowances and expenses within the maximum rates set by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales. At full Council held on 28th April 2009, members determined that their scheme of allowances and expenses would not be increased for 2009/10.
- 2.2 Reference was made in the Budget Monitoring report presented to the meeting of this Committee on 29/09/09 to the potential saving that is anticipated to be achieved arising from the above decision.
- 2.3 The report projects the anticipated final outturn for Members’ Allowances based upon expenditure for the first six months of the year.

### **3. LINKS TO STRATEGY**

- 3.1 The contents in this report are in accordance with the Budget Strategy agreed by Council at its meeting on 5th March 2009.
- 3.2 The service areas within Performance & Policy Services Division assist clients in meeting the Corporate themes of Education for Life, Regeneration, Health and Social Care and The Environment, and all areas seek to meet the Council’s aim to:  
  
*‘carry out all services effectively and ensure value for money in service provision’.*
- 3.3 Budget management itself is in accordance with the Corporate theme of ‘Delivering the Strategies’.

### **4. THE REPORT**

- 4.1 When the budget for 2009/10 was prepared, allowances were increased in line with the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales, which recommended members basic and special responsibility allowances should increase by 2.5%.

- 4.2 Appendix 1 gives details of the sums included in the budget for 2009/10 together with the projected outturn. The original projected underspend (£30,000) was based on the difference between the budgeted amount and the variation due to the unapplied inflation increase. The current projected underspend of some £43,000 also takes into account the fact that Members who have more than one Special Responsibility only receive an allowance for one of the positions (those where no payment is made are indicated by \* in the Number column in Appendix 1).
- 4.2 It should be noted that the saving should be viewed as a one-off for 2009/10 as the Authority are awaiting a decision from the Remuneration Panel which could have future cost implications.

## **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 This report deals with financial issues.

## **6. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There are no personnel implications.

## **7. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 7.1 Members are requested to note the contents of the report.

## **8. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8.1 To acquaint Members with the financial position of the Performance & Policy Division.

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Consultees: S. Rosser - Chief Executive  
N. Barnett - Director of Corporate Services  
C. Jones – Head of Performance & Policy  
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Cllr. C. Mann – Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources & Sustainability  
Cllr. J. Taylor – Chairman, Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee  
Cllr. M. E. Sargent – Vice-Chairman, Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee

Background Papers:  
Budget Monitoring Reports 2009/10  
Estimates Working Papers 2009/10

Appendices:  
Appendix 1 - Performance & Policy Report P3