

REPORT OF ADMINISTRATION & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER

SUBJECT: MEMBER REMUNERATION 2020/21

Purpose of Report

To inform Members of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales' decisions in relation to the Basic and Senior Salaries payable to National Park Authority Members for the financial year 2020/21.

Introduction/Background

The Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (the Panel) was appointed in January 2008 by the (then) Welsh Assembly Government Minister for Social Justice and Local Government under the provisions of *The Local Authorities (Allowances for Members) (Wales) Regulations 2007*. The Panel was established on a permanent basis to determine the maximum levels of allowances payable by county and county borough councils.

Following the passing of the Local Government (Wales) Measure on the 10th May 2011, the Panel's remit and powers were extended to include National Park Authorities, Fire and Rescue Authorities and 'civic heads' in local authorities. Not only that, the Measure extended the Panel's powers to enable it to prescribe payments rather than determine the maxima as it had done in the past.

The Panel published a draft Annual Report last autumn, which was considered by the Authority at its meeting held on the 11th December 2019, and at which it was decided to note the draft Report. The final Annual Report was published on the 19th February 2020.

Panel determinations

The relevant extracts from the Panel's report relating to National Park Authorities are attached to this report at Appendix 1 but, in summary, the main changes to Members' remuneration for the financial year 2020/21 are:

- (i) that the Basic Salary for "ordinary Members"¹ is increased by £275 from £3,735 to £4,010 per annum;
- (ii) that the Senior Salary payable to the Chair of the Authority is increased from £12,435 to £12,710 per annum, and

¹ As referred to in the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Annual Report 2019/20

- (iii) that the ability to determine which of two Senior Salary levels could be paid to the Deputy Chair of the Authority and Committee Chairs is removed and the Senior Salary prescribed from now on. Members have historically agreed to pay the lower of the two levels (£6,135 for the 2019/20 financial year); as a result of this change, the Senior Salary payable to the Deputy Chair of the Authority and Committee Chairs will increase by £1,575 to £7,710.

NOTE: Senior Salaries are to be paid “where there is significant and sustained responsibility”² associated with the post.

- (iv) that the ability to determine the maximum number of days in any one year for which Independent Members of the Standards Committee may be paid is removed. The Panel now advises that the number of days in any one year for which they may be paid will reflect the work programme of that Committee.

No changes have been made to the fees payable to Independent Members of the Standards Committee, nor to the level of travel and subsistence rates; neither has there been a change to the level of reimbursement of costs of care to Members.

The Annual Report also reiterates the following facts:

- (i) that a Senior Salary is paid **inclusive** of the Basic Salary;
- (ii) that a Senior Salary can be paid to the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Authority, and **up to two** other Committee Chairs;
- (iii) that Members must not receive more than one Senior Salary, and
- (iv) that a local authority Member who is in receipt of a Band 1 or Band 2 Senior Salary (i.e. as a County Council Leader, Deputy Leader or other executive office holder) **cannot** be remunerated for his/her role as an ordinary or senior Member of a National Park Authority.

The new salary framework will come into effect on the 1st April 2020.

Options for Senior Salary remuneration

The Authority is entitled to pay a Senior Salary for **up to four** posts (Chair and Deputy Chair of the Authority, together with two Committee Chairs). Three are currently remunerated; the posts of Chair and Deputy Chair of the Authority, together with the Chair of the Development Management Committee.

Members are, therefore, requested to determine which posts will be eligible to receive a Senior Salary for 2020/21.

² As referred to in the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Annual Report 2019/20

Financial considerations

Member Salaries have been provided for in the budget.

Compliance

The Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales has prescribed the levels of Basic and Senior Salaries referred to in the report; the Authority cannot vary these levels. However, this does not preclude Members from declining all or part of the Salary to which they are entitled at any time during their term of office.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Members are requested:

- 1. To note the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales' Annual Report for 2020/21, and**
- 2. To determine which post(s) should be remunerated with a Senior Salary.**

Background Documents

Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Annual Report: February 2020
Report to National Park Authority: 11th December 2019

Author: Janet Evans, Administration & Democratic Services Manager and Deputy Monitoring Officer

Consultees: Tegryn Jones, Chief Executive, Richard Griffiths, Finance Manager and Section 151 Officer and Michael Kent, Monitoring Officer.

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Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales

Annual Report

February 2020

Mae'r ddogfen yma hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg.
This document is also available in Welsh.

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

FOREWORD

In 2017 the Panel visited each of the 22 principal councils and met with many members and officers. Since then we have met with all Fire and Rescue and National Park Authorities and continued with the programme of meetings with Community and Town Councillors and Clerks. In this draft Annual Report we continue to reflect some of the issues that have arisen during our visits. We have previously indicated that payments to councillors have not kept pace with the original comparator the Panel used to establish an appropriate level of remuneration because of pressures on public expenditure. The effect of this can be seen in the tables and graphs in section 3. A more detailed paper will be available on our website.

Our draft Annual Report proposed an increase in the basic salary of elected members of principal councils and members of both Fire and Rescue Authorities and National Park Authorities to take account of the current rate of inflation which will help prevent further erosion. The responses to the consultation generally accepted the reasons for the increase and agreed that payments to elected members had not kept pace with the cost of living. We have decided to retain the proposals contained in our draft Report. Concerns about the financial impact of any increases when local government in Wales continues to be financially stretched are inevitable. However, we have to balance the issue of affordability with fairness to members of local councils and recognise that the current level of payments means that many of them struggle financially. As we have consistently indicated, representative democracy does not come without a cost. In the current circumstances we consider our determinations set out in this Report achieve this balance.

Other issues that were raised in several responses related to the date of implementation of the determinations and matters of taxation of some of the payments.

Some responses suggested that the date of implementation should be following the authority's Annual Meeting. The Panel's statutory position in this regard is clear. The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 stipulates that the Panel's Annual Report relates to each financial year.

While we fully appreciate the concerns expressed about the application of taxation to some of the payments, it is not a matter that is within our remit to take this up directly, we are providing information to support representations to HMRC. We have also advised authorities to make representations individually.

The term of office of Julie May, who has been a member of the Panel since 2016, ended on 31st December. I would wish to put on record my thanks to her for her work and commitment. She was a valuable member and will be missed. Also, my thanks to our secretariat who carry out all the administrative tasks without which we could not function.

John Bader
Chair

Panel Membership

John Bader – Chair
Gregory Owens - Vice Chair
Stephen Mulholland

Julie May
Saz Willey
Roger Symonds

Detailed information about the members can be found on the website: <http://irpw.gov.wales>

Introduction



This is the twelfth Annual Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (the Panel), and the ninth published under the requirements of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011(as amended).

1. As with all the Panel's Annual Reports the determinations on member remuneration are underpinned by the principles set out in Section 1.
2. The Panel has consistently expressed its view that maintaining the democratic values of local governance cannot be cost free. Members of local authorities (including co-opted and appointed members) are there to represent the interests of local people, undertake the governance of local communities, and secure appropriate value for money public services for local tax-payers through effective scrutiny for which they are accountable to their community. These are significant and important tasks for members of the relevant authorities within the Panel's remit. Payments to members are made available to encourage a diversity of willing and able people to undertake local governance through their elected, appointed or co-opted roles.
3. In determining the level of payments to members of local authorities, the Panel seeks to meet the principle of 'acceptability' by ensuring that these are not 'so great as to require a significant diversion of resources from key council priorities'. But Section 142(8) of the Measure is more explicit on 'affordability' when it states that "when setting an amount, the Panel must take into account what it considers will be the likely financial impact of doing so on relevant authorities". The Panel acknowledges that the issue of affordability – in relation both to relevant authorities' service budgets and to the electorate's disposable incomes – is likely to impact on the public perception of any increases to members' payments. It is therefore a matter of balancing issues of affordability and public perception with fairness to members for their time, worth and responsibility.
4. In 2009 the Panel aligned members' payments to the median gross earnings of all full-time employees resident in Wales as reported in the Annual Survey of Hourly Earnings (ASHE). The basic salary at that time was set at three-fifths of the All Wales Median Salary and senior salaries were set at multiples of this annual median salary. In setting these salaries the Panel recognised that there was an unpaid public service contribution.
5. The financial constraints on the public sector and particularly local authorities have meant that the link with average Welsh earnings has not been maintained. The Panel considers that this has undervalued the worth of elected members. To avoid further erosion in relation to average earnings the Panel proposes to increase the basic annual salary by £350 to £14,218 (an increase of 2.5%).

6. From the discussions during our visits to the principal councils it is clear that very few members are utilising the provision in the framework to reimburse the costs of care. It appears that some members are still reluctant to claim all they are entitled to support them in their role, because of concerns about the adverse publicity this can attract (see Annex 4 for changes to the publication requirements). We urge Democratic Services Committees to take steps to encourage and facilitate greater use of this element of our framework so that members concerned are not financially disadvantaged. We are currently undertaking a review of this provision with a view to encouraging greater take up by those members who have caring responsibilities.
7. The Panel has continued to contribute wherever possible to enhancing diversity in local government in Wales through its determinations. The Panel produces leaflets for prospective candidates on the remuneration of members of councils. We are pleased that several councils include this leaflet on their websites. In addition since the last report we have produced a short film [Ever thought about being a Welsh councillor?](#)
8. During 2019 we met with each of the three National Park Authorities (NPAs) and each of the three Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs). Discussions with members indicated that the time commitment had increased. We have reflected this in our determinations and the salaries for NPAs are now to be based on 44 days per year and for FRAs 22 days per year.
9. We have continued to engage with community and town councils and have met with numerous representative groups. As a result, we propose further amendments to our framework in respect of community and town councils. The proposed determinations for community and town councils are in Section 13.
10. The Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013 amended the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 by inserting Section 143A. This requires that any principal council or fire and rescue authority that intends to change the salary of its Head of Paid Service must consult the Panel unless the change is in keeping with changes applied to other officers. Section 143A also enables the Panel to take a view on anything in the Pay Policy Statement of an authority that relates to the salary of the Head of Paid Service (normally the Head of Paid Service or Chief Fire Officer). The Local Government (Wales) Act 2015 extended this responsibility, on a temporary basis, to Chief Officers of principal authorities. This function of the Panel ceases on 31 March 2020. The Panel's approach to its use of these powers is set out in Section 15 of this Report and accords with the guidance issued to the Panel by the Welsh Government.
11. Since assuming the additional responsibility in respect of changes to the salaries of chief officers of principal councils the Panel has dealt with several submissions each year. The Panel's decisions in the past year are at Section 15.
12. One issue that has been a point of discussion during the last year is the action of the Council in respect of the Reports of the Panel which it receives. When the Panel's Annual Report is issued, principal councils must comply with the statutory requirements and apply all the relevant determinations. The proper officer of the council must put in place mechanisms for all eligible council members to receive

payments as determined by the Panel. There are currently no options relating to levels of remuneration by principal councils that require a decision by full council. Levels of payments to which members are entitled cannot be varied by a vote of a principal council.

13. Only an individual member may communicate in writing to the proper officer if, as *an individual*, they wish to decline all or part of the payment to which they are entitled.
14. How the IRPW Annual Report is formally received or noted by full council is not a matter that is within the Panel's statutory remit. Individual constitutions or standing orders of councils may vary as to matters that may be submitted to full council for consideration. It is for each council to decide how they wish to manage receipt of the IRPW Report and if appropriate seek the advice of their legal officers. However, all council members and officers should take care that no misleading statements are made or reported in media, in particular, an indication that a council has taken a decision to reduce or vary levels of payments. There are no powers that permit a principal council to take such action.

¹ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/mwa/2011/4/contents/enacted>

7. Payments to Members of National Park Authorities (NPAs)

Structure of National Park Authorities

7.1 The three National Parks in Wales - Brecon Beacons, Pembrokeshire Coast and Snowdonia were formed to protect spectacular landscapes and provide recreation opportunities for the public. The Environment Act 1995 led to the creation of the three corresponding National Park Authorities (NPAs). These have two main statutory purposes, to:

- protect and improve the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage;
- promote opportunities for the public to understand and enjoy the National Park's special features.

In addition to fulfilling the National Park's purposes, it is the duty of the National Park Authority to foster the economic and social wellbeing of local communities within the Park.

7.2 National Park Authorities comprise Members who are either elected members nominated by the Principal Councils within the National Park area or are members appointed by the Welsh Government through the Public Appointments process. Welsh Government appointed and council nominated members are treated equally in relation to remuneration.

7.3 The structure of the Members' Committee at each of the three national parks is set out in Table 6.

Table 6: Membership of Welsh National Park Authorities

| National Park Authority | Total Membership | Principal Council Members | Welsh Government appointed Members |
|----------------------------|------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| Brecon Beacons | 24 | 16: Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council – 1 Carmarthenshire County Council – 2 Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council – 1 Monmouthshire County Council – 2 Powys County Council – 8 Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council - 1 Torfaen County Borough Council – 1 | 8 |
| Pembrokeshire Coast | 18 | 12: Pembrokeshire County Council – 12 | 6 |
| Snowdonia | 18 | 12: Conwy County Borough Council – 3 Gwynedd Council – 9 | 6 |

- 7.4 In addition, Standards Committees of NPAs have independent co-opted members whose remuneration is included in the Framework as set out in Section 9.
- 7.5 In considering remuneration of members of NPAs, the Panel has based its determinations on the following key points:
- NPAs manage their work via formal authority meetings, committees and task and finish groups. Each has a Development, Management and or Planning Committee, and other committees include Performance and Resources and Audit and Scrutiny. Ordinary NPA members are members of at least one committee as well as being involved in site visits and inspection Panels.
 - There is an expectation that members will participate in training and development.
 - The Chair of an NPA has a leadership and influencing role in the authority, a representational role similar in some respects to that of a civic head and a high level of accountability. The chair is not only the leader of the authority but is also the public face of the particular national park and is the link with the Minister and AMs with whom they have regular meetings. The role requires a high level of commitment and time.

Basic and senior salaries

- 7.6 Members of the Panel visited each of the three NPAs in 2019. As a result of discussions that took place at these visits, the Panel has decided that the time commitment on which the remuneration is based will be increased from 42 to 44 days. The salary for members of NPAs will increase to £4,010.
- 7.7 The Panel has also previously determined that the remuneration of a NPA Chair should be aligned to that part of a Band 3 senior salary received by a committee chair of a principal council. This salary will increase to £12,710.
- 7.8 The Panel has previously provided the option for a NPA to decide which of two salary levels the roles of deputy chair and up to two other committee Chairs can be remunerated at. During the visits members considered that this arrangement was no longer appropriate. The Panel has therefore decided that the optional arrangement is removed. The salary for the deputy chair and committee chairs will increase to £7,710 which is aligned to Band 5.

Additional Senior Salaries

- 7.9 Feedback was received during the Panel's visits to NPAs that its determination that up to two NPA Committee Chairs could receive a senior salary could be restrictive in the NPAs discharging their governance requirements.
- 7.10 The Panel allows principal councils greater flexibility to apply for specific or additional senior salaries that do not fall within the current Remuneration Framework. The Panel extends this provision to NPAs as reflected in the following principles:
- a. Applications will have to be approved by the authority as a whole (this cannot be delegated) prior to submission to the Panel.
 - b. There must be clear evidence that the post or posts have additional responsibility demonstrated by a description of the role, function and duration.
 - c. Each application will have to indicate the timing for a formal review of the role to be considered by the authority as a whole.

7.11 The Panel has made the following determinations:

Determination 19: The basic salary for NPA ordinary members shall be £4,010 with effect from 1 April 2020.

Determination 20: The senior salary of the Chair of an NPA shall be £12,710 with effect from 1 April 2020

Determination 21: A NPA senior salary of £7,710 must be paid to a Deputy Chair where appointed.

Determination 22: Up to two committee chairs can be paid a salary of £7,710.

Determination 23: NPAs can apply for specific or additional senior salaries that do not fall within the current Remuneration Framework.

Determination 24: Members must not receive more than one NPA senior salary.

Determination 25: A NPA senior salary is paid inclusive of the NPA basic salary.

Determination 26: Members of a principal council in receipt of a Band 1 or Band 2 senior salary cannot receive a salary from any NPA to which they have been appointed.

Note: Family absence does not apply to Welsh Government appointed members and local authority nominees are covered by their principal council so NPAs are not required to make any arrangements in this respect.

9. Payments to Co-opted Members of Principal Councils, National Park Authorities and Fire & Rescue Authorities ⁶

- 9.1 The Panel has determined that a daily or half daily fee is appropriate remuneration for the important role undertaken by co-opted members of authorities with voting rights (this includes the co-opted member from a community or town council). The level of payments is equivalent to the current daily rates for chairs and members of the Welsh Government's Band 2 sponsored bodies.
- 9.2 The number of days in any one year for which co-opted members may be paid will reflect the work programme of the relevant committee. Recognising the important role that co-opted members have, payment must be made for travel and preparation time; committee and other types of meetings as well as other activities, including training, as set out in Determinations 36 to 39.
- 9.3 The determinations are set out below and principal councils, NPAs and FRAs must tell co-opted members the name of the appropriate officer who will provide them with the information required for their claims; and make the appropriate officer aware of the range of payments that should be made.

Determination 35: Principal councils, NPAs and FRAs must pay the following fees to co-opted members who have voting rights (Table 8).

Table 8: Fees for co-opted members (with voting rights)

| | |
|---|--|
| Chairs of standards, and audit committees | £256 (4 hours and over) £128 (up to 4 hours) |
| Ordinary members of standards committees who also chair standards committees for community and town councils | £226 daily fee (4 hours and over) £113 (up to 4 hours) |
| Ordinary members of standards committees; education scrutiny committee; crime and disorder scrutiny committee and audit committee | £198 (4 hours and over) £99 (up to 4 hours) |
| Community and town councillors sitting on principal council standards committees | £198 (4 hours and over) £99 (up to 4 hours) |

Determination 36: Reasonable time for pre-meeting preparation is to be included in claims made by co-opted members the extent of which can be determined by the appropriate officer in advance of the meeting.

Determination 37: Travelling time to and from the place of the meeting is to be included in the claims for payments made by co-opted members (up to the maximum of the daily rate).

Determination 38: The appropriate officer within the authority must determine in advance whether a meeting is programmed for a full day and the fee will be paid on the basis of this determination even if the meeting finishes before four hours has elapsed.

Determination 39: Fees must be paid for meetings and other activities including other committees and working groups (including task and finish groups), pre-meetings with officers, training and attendance at conferences or any other formal meeting to which co-opted members are requested to attend.

Support for co-opted members

- 9.4 The Panel's visits to principal councils in 2017 identified some good practice in how the important role of co-opted members was reflected in the communication and support they receive. In the best cases, they received the same range of support as elected members, enabling them to undertake their role fully. However, concerns were raised in several councils where the Panel's determinations were not being fully implemented and there was limited support available for co-opted members.

Determination 40: Each authority, through its Democratic Services Committee or other appropriate committee, must ensure that all voting co-opted members are given as much support as is necessary to enable them to fulfil their duties effectively. Such support should be without cost to the individual member.

⁶ This section does not apply to co-opted members to community and town councils.

10. Reimbursement of Costs of Care

- 10.1 This section applies to all members of principal councils, National Park Authorities, Fire and Rescue Authorities and to Co-opted members of these authorities. The same provision for Community and Town Councils is set out in section 13.
- 10.2 The purpose of this section is to enable people who have personal support needs and or caring responsibilities to carry out their duties effectively as a member of an authority. The Panel believes that additional costs of care required to carry out approved duties should not deter any individual from becoming and remaining a member of an authority or limit their ability to carry out the role.
- 10.3 Members, including co-opted members should be entitled to reimbursement of their care costs, up to the maximum of £403 per month, for activities that the individual council has designated official business or an approved duty which might include appropriate and reasonable preparation and travelling time. It is a matter for individual authorities to determine specific arrangements to implement this.
- 10.4 The Panel recognises the issues relating to the publication of this legitimate expense. This is reflected in change to the requirements for publication set out in Annex 4. To support current members and to encourage diversity the Panel urges authorities to promote and encourage greater take-up of the reimbursement of costs of care.

Determination 41: All authorities must provide for the reimbursement of necessary costs for the care of dependent children and adults (provided by informal or formal carers) and for personal assistance needs up to a maximum of £403 per month. Reimbursement must be for the additional costs incurred by members to enable them to carry out their approved duties. Reimbursement shall only be made on production of receipts from the carer.

11. Sickness Absence for Senior Salary Holders

- 11.1 The Family Absence Regulations (approved by the National Assembly in 2014) are very specific relating to entitlement and only available for elected members of principal councils. Absence for reasons of ill-health is not included.
- 11.2 Instances have been raised with the Panel of senior salary holders on long term sickness and the perceived unfairness in comparison with the arrangements for family absence. In consequence, councils are faced with the dilemma of:
- Operating without the individual member but still paying them the senior salary.
 - Replacing the member who therefore loses the senior salary (but retains the basic salary).
- 11.3 The Panel's Framework provides specific arrangements for long term sickness as set out below:
- a) Long term sickness is defined as certified absences in excess of 4 weeks.
 - b) The maximum length of sickness absence within these proposals is 26 weeks or until the individual's term of office ends, whichever is sooner (but if reappointed any remaining balance of the 26 weeks will be included).
 - c) Within these parameters a senior salary holder on long term sickness can, if the authority decides, continue to receive remuneration for the post held.
 - d) It is a decision of the authority whether to make a substitute appointment, but the substitute will be eligible to be paid the senior salary appropriate to the post.
 - e) If the paid substitution results in the authority exceeding the maximum number of senior salaries payable for that authority, as set out in the Annual Report, an addition will be allowed for the duration of the substitution. (However, this would not apply to Merthyr Tydfil or the Isle of Anglesey councils if it would result in more than 50% of the membership receiving a senior salary. It would also not apply in respect of a council executive member if it would result in the cabinet exceeding 10 posts - the statutory maximum).
 - f) When an authority agrees a paid substitution, the Panel must be informed within 14 days of the decision of the details including the specific post and the estimated length of the substitution. The authorities' Schedule of Remuneration must be amended accordingly.
 - g) It does not apply to elected members of principal councils who are not

senior post holders as they continue to receive basic salary for at least six months irrespective of attendance and any extension beyond this timescale is a matter for the authority.

- 11.4 This arrangement applies to members of principal councils, National Park Authorities and Fire and Rescue Authorities who are senior salary holders, including Welsh Government appointed members, but does not apply to co-opted members.

Note:

The Family Absence Regulations apply to elected members in cases of maternity, new born, adoption and parental absences from official business. They do not apply to Welsh Government appointed members of National Park Authorities.

12. Reimbursement of Travel and Subsistence Costs when on Official Business

- 12.1 This section applies to members of principal councils, National Park Authorities, Fire and Rescue Authorities and to co-opted members of these authorities. (Similar provision for Community and Town Councils is contained in section 13 as there is a different approach to such members, principally that the provision is permissive.)
- 12.2 Members may claim reimbursement for travel and subsistence (meals and accommodation) costs where these have arisen as a result of undertaking official duties.
- 12.3 Expenses reimbursed to members of principal councils, by their principal council are exempt from Income Tax and employee NICs. Members of National Park Authorities and Fire and Rescue Authorities may be subject to other arrangements as determined by HMRC.
- 12.4 The Panel is aware that in some instances members with disabilities have been reluctant to claim legitimate travel expenses because of an adverse response following the publication of their travel costs. As an alternative, travel arrangements could be made directly by the authority in such circumstances.
- 12.5 The Panel has determined there will be no change to mileage rates which members are entitled to claim. All authorities may only reimburse travel costs for their members undertaking official business within and or outside the authority's boundaries at the current HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) rates which are:

Reimbursement of mileage costs

| | |
|--------------|---|
| 45p per mile | Up to 10,000 miles in a year by car |
| 25p per mile | Over 10,000 miles in a year by car |
| 5p per mile | Per passenger carried on authority business |
| 24p per mile | Motor cycles |
| 20p per mile | Bicycles |

- 12.6 Where a member who is on official business is driven by a third party (not a member or officer of that authority), the member can claim mileage at the prescribed rates plus any parking or toll fees provided the authority is satisfied that the member has incurred these costs.

Reimbursement of other travel costs

- 12.7 All other claims for travel, including travel by taxi if this is the only, or most

appropriate, method of transport, must only be reimbursed on production of receipts showing the actual cost and will be subject to any requirement or further limitation that an authority may determine. Members should always be mindful of choosing the most cost-effective method of travel.

Reimbursement of subsistence costs

| | |
|----------------|--|
| £28 per day | Day allowance for meals, including breakfast, where not provided in the overnight charge |
| £200 per night | London |
| £95 per night | Elsewhere |
| £30 per night | Staying with friends and or family |

- 12.8 These rates are in line with Welsh Government rates. Recommended practice is that overnight accommodation should usually be reserved and paid for on behalf of members by the relevant authority, in which case an authority may set its own reasonable limits and the limits which apply when an individual member claims in arrears for overnight accommodation costs do not then apply.
- 12.9 All authorities must continue to reimburse subsistence expenses for their members up to the maximum rates set out above on the basis of receipted claims except for occasions when members stay with friends and/or family.
- 12.10 There may be instances where an authority has determined that travel costs within its boundaries are payable and require a journey to be repeated on consecutive days. Where it is reasonable and cost effective to reimburse overnight accommodation costs, instead of repeated daily mileage costs, then it is permissible to do so.
- 12.11 It is not necessary to allocate the maximum daily rate (£28 per day) between different meals as the maximum daily rate reimbursable covers a 24-hour period and can be claimed for any meal if relevant, provided such a claim is accompanied by receipts.

Car Parking for Members

Several councils have specific arrangements for their members in respect of car parking. The Panel considers that it is a matter for individual councils to determine arrangements including payments to and from members providing that it is a decision made formally by the council.