

## REPORT OF ADMINISTRATION & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER

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### **SUBJECT: MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES**

#### Background

The Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (IRPW) was appointed in January 2008 by the 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 prescribe the maximum levels of allowances payable by county and county borough councils.

Although the Panel's remit does not yet extend to National Park Authorities and Fire & Rescue Authorities, we are required to take the Panel's recommendations, together with the level of allowances paid by our constituent county and county borough councils, into consideration.

#### Travelling allowances

The travel rate currently payable to Members undertaking duties on behalf of the Authority is 40p per mile. The IRPW has recently issued a supplementary report indicating that HM Revenue and Customs has increased the rate to 45p per mile, with effect from the 6<sup>th</sup> April 2011.

A comparison of the allowance paid by the other two Welsh Park Authorities and Pembrokeshire County Council is detailed in the table below:

<b>Authority</b>	<b>Rate payable</b>
Brecon Beacons National Park Authority	45p per mile
Snowdonia National Park Authority	45p per mile
Pembrokeshire County Council	45p per mile

Adoption of the new rate would amount to a 12.5% increase in Member expenses which, in monetary terms, would equate to approximately £800 on expenses payable in 2010/11.

## Special Responsibility Allowances

### (a) **Vice-Chair of the Development Management Committee**

At the Ordinary Meeting of the Authority held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2010, Members considered a recommendation by the IRPW that the Vice-Chair of Committees should no longer receive a Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA) as the Panel considered that particular office to be a 'developmental' role for Members who might progress in future to an office for which an SRA was payable. At the meeting, Members resolved to adopt the IRPW's recommendation not to remunerate Vice-Chairs, except for the SRA to the Vice-Chair of the Development Management Committee, which they felt should be retained. However, it was also resolved that this matter be reviewed in 12 months' time.

### (b) **Review Committees**

There will be a need to appoint Chairs and Vice-Chairs to the three new Review Committees and, with this, a need to consider whether or not the new offices should be remunerated. The Chair of the former Performance Review Committee (which comprised all Members of the Authority) received a SRA of £714 per annum.

Option 1: Each Chair of the three Review Committees receives a SRA of £714. This would result in an increase of £1,428 in the Members' allowances budget;

Option 2: The office of Chair of the three Review Committees is not remunerated, resulting in a saving of £714 in the Members' allowances budget, or

Option 3: The SRA for the former Performance Review Committee is divided between the three Review Committees, giving each Chair a SRA of £238.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

### **Members are requested:**

- 1. to consider whether or not to ally the travel allowance payable to Members undertaking duties on behalf of the Authority to the HM Revenue and Customs rate, and**
- 2. to consider whether or not the Special Responsibility Allowance for the Vice-Chair of the Development Management Committee should be removed, and**

3. **to consider whether the Chairs of the three Review Committees should receive a Special Responsibility Allowance and, if so, at what level of remuneration.**

Background documents to this report

Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales: Supplementary Report April 2011  
Report No. 18/10 on Members' Allowances to the National Park Authority: 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2010

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