

**BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**REPORT TO THE DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE**  
**12 MARCH 2020**

**REPORT OF THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

**SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES 2020-2021**

**1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise the Democratic Services Committee of a Draft Supplementary Report issued by the Panel relating to the reimbursement of Costs of Care which is the subject of consultation.

**2. Connection to corporate improvement objectives /other corporate priorities**

- 2.1 The Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales has acknowledged the need to ensure that financial barriers do not stand in the way of attracting more people to serve in local government. The active participation of all Members contributes to all the following Corporate Priorities.

1. **Supporting a successful economy** – taking steps to make the county a good place to do business, for people to live, work, study and visit, and to ensure that our schools are focused on raising the skills, qualifications and ambitions of all people in the county.
2. **Helping people to be more self-reliant** – taking early steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on the Council and its services.
3. **Smarter use of resources** – ensuring that all its resources (financial, physical, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the development of resources throughout the community that can help deliver the Council's priorities.

**3. Background**

- 3.1 The Local Authorities (Allowances for Members) (Wales) Regulations 2007 provided for the establishment of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales.
- 3.2 In addition to the publication by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales of its Annual Report for 2020-21, which is being reported to Council on 11 March 2020, the Panel has also issued a draft supplementary report relating to the Reimbursement of Costs of Care.

**4. Current Situation / Proposal**

- 4.1 Draft Supplementary Report on the Reimbursement of the Costs of Care

- 4.1.1 The Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales has issued a draft supplementary report relating to the Reimbursement of Costs of Care. The Panel has endeavoured to find ways to increase the take up of the financial support for members of councils who have care responsibilities or personal needs. The Panel believe that this provision is an important factor to increase and sustain diversity of membership of local authorities.
- 4.1.2 The Panel proposes a set of principles that should be adopted by all relevant authorities and has issued a consultation document requesting that responses be submitted to the Panel by 9 April 2020, prior to the publication of the final Report. The draft supplementary report sets out the Panel's proposals for consultation which is attached at **Appendix 1** and sets out the minimum authorities should do and how this could be done with regard to the Reimbursement of the Costs of Care. The purpose of the proposal is to enable all members and co-opted members of relevant authorities to carry out their duties effectively.

## **5. Effect Upon Policy Framework & Procedure Rules**

- 5.1 There is currently no impact of the Policy Framework or Procedure Rules.

## **6. Equalities Impact Assessment**

- 6.1 This report is supportive of the equalities implications for Elected Members by including care, family and other allowances.

## **7. Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 Implications**

- 7.1 The well-being goals identified in the Act were considered in the preparation of this report. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable impacts upon the achievement of wellbeing goals/objectives as a result of this report

## **8. Financial Implications**

- 8.1 The budget set for the remuneration of Elected Members in 2020-21 is £1,152,930. The additional cost of care will be met from within the existing budget.

## **9. Recommendations**

- 9.1 The Committee is requested to consider the set of principles for the Reimbursement of the Costs of Care and respond accordingly to the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales' Draft Supplementary Report by the deadline of 9 April 2020.

**Head of Democratic Services**  
**4 March 2020**

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**Background documents:** None