

# BRACKLA COMMUNITY COUNCIL



## REPORT TO ANNUAL MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL

20 MAY 2021

### PAYMENTS TO MEMBERS 2021/22 IN LINE WITH THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES

#### 1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 As part of its Annual Meeting, Council are requested to consider the payments to Members for 2021-22 in line with the requirements as presented in the annual report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (IRPW) 2021-22.

#### 2. CURRENT SITUATION

- 2.1 In the Annual Report of the IRPW, which can be found via the [link](#), Table 8 sets out the 3 groups of community and town councils based on the level of income or expenditure, whichever is the highest, in the previous financial year. According to this, Brackla Community Council would fit under Group B, as its income and expenditure in 2020-21 was between £30,000 - £199,999.
- 2.2 The Panel's report also sets out the payments that Members are entitled to receive and where a decision is required by Council.
- 2.3 In the first instance, Community Councils must make available a payment to each of their members of £150 per year as a contribution to costs and expenses. There must be no requirement for individuals to 'opt in' to receive payments. An individual may decline to receive part, or all, of the payments if they so wish. This must be done in writing and is an individual matter. A community or town council member wishing to decline payments must themselves write to their proper officer to do so.
- 2.4 Furthermore all Community Councils must provide a payment towards necessary costs for the care of dependent children and adults (provided by informal or formal carers) and for personal assistance needs as follows:
- Formal (registered with Care Inspectorate Wales) care costs to be paid as evidenced.
  - Informal (unregistered) care costs to be paid up to a maximum rate equivalent to the Real UK Living Wage at the time the costs are incurred. This must be for the additional costs incurred by members to enable them to carry out official business or approved duties. Each authority must

ensure that any payments made are appropriately linked to official business or approved duty. Payment shall only be made on production of receipts from the care provider.

- 2.5 In addition to this, the Panel's report states recognises that specific member roles especially within the larger community and town councils, for example a committee chair, will involve greater responsibility. Councils in Groups B and C can therefore pay up to five responsibility payments (of up to £500) for specified roles.
- 2.6 Payments to the Chair and Deputy Chair are the same as previous years, up to maximums of £1,500 and £500 respectively. This is in addition to the £150 payment for costs and expenses and the £500 senior salary if these are claimed
- 2.6 It is worth noting that a Councillor can only have one payment of £500 regardless of how many senior roles they hold within their Council.

### 3. **PROPOSAL**

- 3.1 The Council is asked to note the content of the report including the allowance for payments to Members as laid out under points 2.3 and 2.4;
- 3.2 Based on the Council's categorisation in Group B and the determinations set out by the IRWP, it is for Brackla Community Council to determine:
- If it wishes to make an annual payment of up to £500 each to up to 5 members in recognition of specific responsibilities. This is in addition to the £150 payment for costs and expenses.
  - If the Community Council wishes to provide a payment to the Chair of the Council and the amount, up to a maximum of £1,500. This is in addition to the £150 payment for costs and expenses and the £500 senior salary if these are claimed.
  - If the Community Council wishes to provide a payment to the Deputy Chair of the Council and the amount, up to a maximum of £500.00. This is in addition to the £150 payment for costs and expenses and the £500 senior salary if these are claimed