



Radyr & Morganstown Community Council

Cyngor Cymuned Radur a Threforgan

Report

Agenda Item 16

Meeting: Finance Committee
Date: 2 March 2023
Report Author: Clerk to the Council

Members Allowances

Introduction

1. This report outlines a request for payment of allowances to a Member in relation to his previous terms of office as Chairman of the Council.

Background

2. The Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales is responsible for determining the level of payments (allowances) to elected members of councils, national park authorities and fire and rescue authorities in Wales. Details are set out each year in the Panel's [Annual Report](#).
3. The Annual Report contains a number of provisions or 'Determinations' relating to payments made to town and community councillors. Individuals can opt out of receiving any payments if they choose.
4. Community and town councils can provide a payment to the mayor or chair of the council up to a maximum of £1,500. The decision as to whether or not to adopt this particular provision, and therefore make the payment, is optional. The Council therefore has a discretion to adopt it or not.
5. Councillor Huw Onllwyn Jones was Chairman of the Council in 2019, 2020 and 2021. The Council resolved to adopt this provision on each of the years in question, along with other determinations relating to other payments. (Council Minutes date 18 April 2019, 19 March 2020 and 18 March 2021 refer.)
6. No payments were made to him as Chairman during these years.
7. The Member has now requested payment of the Chairman's allowance for these three years. The Panel has agreed that this would be a matter for the Council to determine if this is an exceptional circumstance. The individual would be eligible as

the determinations in the annual report does not set a time limit on claiming payments.

8. It is unlikely that the Member opted out of taking this allowance each year, however the Panel may say that individuals are entitled to change their mind. The Member has referred to having done much more work than expected and the added pressures and difficulties we faced as a result of Covid.
9. The Member has also requested payment in relation to attendance at meetings for the current year. (The Council has adopted attendance allowance for members. The amount of each payment must not exceed £30.)

Key Issues

10. The Secretariat to the Panel has advised that this is a matter for the Council to determine, as described above.

Financial Implications

11. Payment of three sums of £1500 would amount to £4500. This would incur an overspend on the budget for Members' Allowances (Code I1) , for which the current budget is £2500. £1462 remains available in the current year.
12. The Council has made no provision for such payments with Earmarked Reserves.

Links to Corporate Objectives

13. The Council's Annual Report confirms that the Council's objectives include delivering:
A Prosperous Community. A Resilient Community. A Healthier Community.
A More Equal Community. A Cohesive Community. A Community of Vibrant Culture & Thriving Welsh Language. A Globally Responsive Community.
14. Payments to Members reflect their wide contribution to the Council, helping to deliver these objectives.

Staffing Implications

15. n/a

Risk Management Implications

16. The Council's [Risk Register](#) ensures that payments to Members are properly managed.

Legal Implications

17. The Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales is responsible for determining the level of payments to elected members of councils, national park authorities and fire and rescue authorities in Wales. The Report states:

Members should receive monies to which they are properly entitled as a matter of course. 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.

18. Details of payments made must be published each year. Payments are taxable.

Recommendation

19. It is **recommended** that Members consider the request for payments.