



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2018-2019

COUNCIL

19th SEPTEMBER 2018

**SUPPORTING THE WORK OF MEMBERS – TELEPHONE AND EMAIL
FACILITIES AND ELECTRONIC ACCESS TO INFORMATION**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS & INTERIM HEAD
OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES.**

Author: Emma Wilkins – Council Business Unit – Democratic Services
Tel.No.01443-424110

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To advise Members of the decision taken forward by the Democratic Services Committee meeting on the 23rd July, 2018 in respect of the IRP recommendation surrounding supporting the work of Members.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To note the agreed way forward by the Democratic Services Committee that all Elected Members receive a payment of £37 per month (before tax and national insurance deductions) as a contribution toward the cost of home broadband for a period of 6 months when the proposal will be reviewed by the Committee.

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The need to advise Members of the agreed way forward, following the recommendations put forward by the Independent Remuneration Panel.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 At the Annual Meeting of the Council held on the 23rd May 2018, consideration was given to the report titled “Members’ Salaries and Allowances – Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales’ (the Panel) Tenth Annual Report. In addition to the recommendations that were agreed, the following was also agreed:-
“That the Panel’s determination that all elected Members should be provided with adequate telephone and email facilities and electronic access to appropriate information at no cost to the individual Members be referred to the Democratic Services Committee for review and following completion of such a review, report any proposals to implement this determination back to full Council”.
- 4.2. At the [Democratic Services Committee](#) on the 23rd July, Members considered the report ‘Supporting The Work Of Members – Telephone And Email Facilities And Electronic Access To Information.
- 4.3 Following discussions in respect of the report, Members resolved (Minute No.4)
- i. *To agree that all Elected Members receive a payment of £37 per month (before tax and national insurance deductions) as a contribution toward the cost of home broadband for a period of 6 months when the proposal will be reviewed; and*
 - ii. *That the proposed way forward be reported to full Council for consideration of all Elected Members.*

6 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The proposal set out within the report to Democratic Services is based on the principle of all elected Members being treated equally and consistently. As a result, no Equality Impact Assessment was deemed required for the purposes of the report

7. CONSULTATION

- 7.1 Democratic Services Committee – [23rd July, 2018.](#)

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The estimated financial implications of the proposed way forward is £33k in a full year. It is considered that if approved, this cost will be met from within existing resources in 2018/19 and built into the Council’s proposed revenue budget strategy for 2019/20.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The determination of the Panel, as set out in its tenth annual report, is underpinned by the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 (as amended).

10 LINKS TO THE COUNCILS CORPORATE PLAN / OTHER CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 10.1 The provision of appropriate support and resources to elected Members is critical in ensuring the interests of local people are represented, governance of local communities is undertaken and value-for-money public services are secured for local tax-payers through effective scrutiny. The continued ability to effectively fulfil these duties will make a positive contribution to the Council's Corporate Plan priorities and the Well-being of Future Generations Act.

11. CONCLUSION

- 11.1 The Panel's Tenth Annual Report has determined that all elected Members should be provided with adequate telephone and email facilities and electronic access to appropriate information at no cost to individual elected Members.
- 11.2 The proposed way forward provides the opportunity for this requirement to be met and ensure the Council's elected Members continue to be provided with the appropriate support and resources to effectively fulfil their duties.
- 11.3 With regard to the provision of mobile phones, this will be subject to a separate report to Democratic Services in due course.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

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Background Papers

Freestanding Matter