

# Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

## MEMBERS' SCHEDULE OF REMUNERATION

This Scheme is made under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 with regard to Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (IRPW) Regulations which apply to payments made to members and co-opted members of local authorities.

### 1. Basic Salary

- 1.1 A Basic Salary shall be paid to each elected Member of the Authority.
- 1.2 In accordance with the Regulations, the rate of the Basic Salary shall be reviewed annually as determined by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales.
- 1.3 Where the term of office of a Member begins or ends other than at the beginning or end of a year, their entitlement to the Basic Salary will be pro-rata.
- 1.4 No more than one Basic Salary is payable to a Member of the Authority.

### 2. Senior Salaries & Civic Salaries

- 2.1 Members occupying specific posts shall be paid a Senior Salary as set out in **Schedule 1**.
- 2.2 In accordance with the Regulations, the rates of Senior Salaries and Civic Salaries shall be reviewed annually as determined by the Annual or Supplementary Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales.
- 2.3 Only one Senior Salary or Civic Salary is payable to a Member of the Authority.
- 2.4 A Member of the Authority cannot be paid a Senior Salary and a Civic Salary.
- 2.5 All Senior and Civic Salaries are paid inclusive of Basic Salary.
- 2.6 A Senior Salary may not be paid to more than the number of members specified by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales in its Annual Report and cannot exceed fifty percent of the total membership of the authority, except to include a temporary Senior Salary office holder providing temporary cover for the family absence of the appointed office holder.
- 2.7 A Member of the Authority in receipt of a Band 1 or Band 2 Senior Salary **cannot** receive a salary from any National Park Authority (NPA) or Fire and Rescue Authority (FRA) for which they have been nominated.
- 2.8 Where the term of Senior Salary or Civic Salary of a Member begins or ends other than at the beginning or end of a year, their entitlement to the Salary will be pro-rata.

### 3. Election to Forgo Entitlement to Allowance

- 3.1 A Member may, by notice in writing delivered to the Proper Officer of the authority, personally elect to forgo any part of their entitlement to any salary, allowance or fee payable under this Scheme from the date set out in the notice.

#### **4. Suspension of a Member**

- 4.1 Where a Member of the Authority is suspended or partially suspended from their responsibilities or duties as a Member of the Authority in accordance with Part III of the Local Government Act 2000 (Conduct of Members), or regulations made under the Act, the part of the Basic Salary payable to them in respect of that period for which they are suspended will be withheld by the Authority (Section 155 (1) of the Measure).
- 4.2 Where a Member in receipt of a Senior Salary is suspended or partially suspended from being a Member of the Authority in accordance with Part III of the Local Government Act 2000 (Conduct of Members), or regulations made under the Act, the Authority must not make payments of the Member's Senior Salary for the duration of the suspension (Section 155 (1) of the Measure). If the partial suspension relates only to the specific responsibility element of the payment, the Member may retain the Basic Salary.

#### **5. Repayment of salaries, allowances or fees**

- 5.1 Where payment of any salary, allowance or fee has been made to a Member of the Authority or Co-opted Member in respect of any period during which the Member concerned:
- (a) is suspended or partially suspended from that Member's or Co-opted Member's duties or responsibilities in accordance with Part 3 of the 2000 Act or regulations made under that Act;
  - (b) ceases to be a Member of the Authority or Co-opted Member; or
  - (c) is in any other way not entitled to receive a salary, allowance or fee in respect of that period,

The Authority will require that such part of the allowance as relates to any such period be repaid.

#### **6. Payments**

- 6.1 Payments of all allowances will be made by the Chief Officer Resources by direct bank credit in instalments of one-twelfth of the Member's annual entitlement on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of each month.
- 6.2 Where payment has resulted in a Member receiving more than their entitlement to salaries, allowances or fees the Authority will require that such part that is overpayment be repaid.
- 6.3 All payments are subject to the appropriate tax and National Insurance deductions.

#### **7. Contribution towards Costs of Care and Personal Assistance**

- 7.1 Contribution towards Costs of Care and Personal Assistance shall be paid to a Member or Co-opted Member, who has caring responsibility for dependent children or

adults, or a personal care requirement, provided the Member incurs expenses in the provision of such care whilst undertaking 'approved' council duties.

- 7.2 Contribution towards Costs of Care and Personal Assistance applies in respect of a dependant under 16 years of age, or a minor or adult who normally lives with the member as part of their family and who cannot be left unsupervised for whom the Member or Co-opted Member can show that care is required. If a Member or Co-opted Member has more than one dependant the Member may claim more than one allowance, provided the Member can demonstrate a need to make separate arrangements for care.
- 7.3 Eligible Members may claim contribution towards costs of care and personal assistance for actual and receipted costs as set out in **Schedule 1**. All claims for the contribution towards costs of care and personal assistance should be made in writing to Democratic Services detailing times, dates and reasons for claim. Receipts are required for both informal and formal care arrangements.

## **8. Family Absence**

- 8.1 Members are entitled under the provisions of the Family Absence for Members of Local Authorities (Wales) Regulations 2013 to a period of family absence, during which if they satisfy the prescribed conditions they are entitled to be absent from authority meetings.
- 8.2 When taking family absence Members are entitled to retain a basic salary irrespective of their attendance record immediately preceding the commencement of the family absence.
- 8.3 Should a senior salary holder be eligible for family absence they will be able to continue to receive their senior salary for the duration of the absence.
- 8.4 If the authority agrees that it is necessary to make a substitute appointment to cover the family absence of a senior salary holder the Member substituting will be eligible if the authority so decides to be paid a senior salary.
- 8.5 If the paid substitution results in the authority exceeding its maximum number of senior salaries, an addition to the maximum will be allowed for the duration of the substitution.

## **9. Co-optees' payments**

- 9.1 A daily fee (with a provision for half day payments) shall be paid to Co-optees, provided they are statutory Co-optees with voting rights.
- 9.2 Co-optees' payments will be capped at a maximum of the equivalent of 10 full days a year for each committee to which an individual may be co-opted.
- 9.3 Payments will take into consideration travelling time to and from the place of the meeting, reasonable time for pre meeting preparation and length of meeting (up to the maximum of the daily rate).

- 9.4 The Head of Legal & Corporate Compliance (Monitoring Officer) is designated as the “appropriate officer” and will determine preparation time, travelling time and length of meeting, the fee will be paid on the basis of this determination.
- 9.5 The Head of Legal & Corporate Compliance (Monitoring Officer) can determine in advance whether a meeting is programmed for a full day and the fee will be paid on the basis of this determination even if the meeting finishes before four hours has elapsed.
- 9.6 A half day meeting is defined as up to 4 hours.
- 9.7 A full day meeting is defined as over 4 hours.
- 9.8 The daily and half day fee for the Chairpersons of the Standards Committee and Audit Committee, as determined by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales, is set out in **Schedule 1**.
- 9.9 The daily and half day fee for other statutory Co-optees with voting rights, as determined by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales, is set out in **Schedule 1**.

## **10. Travel and Subsistence Allowances**

### **10.1 General Principles**

- 10.2 Members and Co-opted Members are entitled to claim travelling expenses when travelling on the Authority’s business for ‘approved duties’ as set out in **Schedule 2**. Where Members travel on the Authority’s business they are expected to travel by the most cost effective means. In assessing cost effectiveness regard will be given to journey time. A Member who does not travel by the most cost effective means may have their claim abated by an appropriate amount.
- 10.3 Where possible Members should share transport.
- 10.4 The distance claimed for mileage should be the shortest reasonable journey by road from the point of departure to the point at which the duty is performed, and similarly from the duty point to the place of return.
- 10.5 The rates of Members’ Travel and Subsistence Allowances are set out in **Schedule 3** and are subject to annual review by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales.
- 10.6 Where a Member is suspended or partially suspended from their responsibilities or duties as a Member of the Authority in accordance with Part III of the Local Government Act 2000 (Conduct of Members), or regulations made under the Act, any travel and subsistence allowances payable to them in respect of that period for which they are suspended or partially suspended must be withheld by the Authority.

## **11. Travel by Private Vehicle**

- 11.1 The Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales has determined that the maximum travel rates payable should be the rates set out by Her Majesty’s Revenue & Customs

for the use of private cars, motor cycles and pedal cycles plus any passenger supplement.

11.2 The mileage rates for private vehicles as determined by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales are set out in **Schedule 3**.

11.3 Where a Member makes use of their private vehicle for approved duty purposes, the vehicle must be insured for business use. Proof of appropriate insurance must be provided to the Authority on request.

## **12. Travel by Public Transport**

### **12.1 Rail or Coach Travel**

Unless otherwise authorised rail tickets will be second-class.

### **12.2 Taxi Fares**

Taxi fares will only be reimbursed where their use has been authorised for cases of urgency, where no public transport is reasonably available, or a Member has a particular personal need. Re-imburement will be upon receipt only.

### **12.3 Air Fare**

Travel by air is permissible if it is the most cost effective means of transport. Authorisation of the Head of Democratic Services is required and tickets will be purchased directly by the Council.

### **12.4 Travel Abroad**

Travel abroad on the Authority's business will only be permitted where authorised by Head of Democratic Services. Democratic Services will arrange travel and accommodation.

### **12.5 Other Travel Expenses**

Members are entitled to reimbursement of toll fees, parking fees, overnight garaging and other necessary travel associated expenses. Re-imburement will be upon receipt only.

## **13. Overnight Accommodation**

13.1 Overnight stays will only be permitted where the Authority's business extends to two days or more, or the venue is at such a distance that early morning or late night travel would be unreasonable. All overnight stays must receive prior authorisation from the Head of Democratic Services.

13.2 Overnight accommodation will be booked by the Council. Wherever possible the overnight accommodation will be pre-paid or invoiced.

13.3 Direct booking of overnight accommodation by a Member will only be permitted in the event of an emergency. Reimbursement will only be made upon the production of a

receipt and will be at a level deemed reasonable and not in excess of the rates set out in **Schedule 3**.

#### **14 Subsistence Allowance**

- 14.1 The day subsistence rate to meet the costs of meals and refreshments in connection with approved duties (including breakfast when not provided as part of overnight accommodation) is set out in **Schedule 3**. The maximum daily rate covers a 24 hour period and can be claimed for any meal that is relevant, providing such a claim is supported by receipt(s)
- 14.2 No provision is made for subsistence claims within the Authority.

#### **15. Claims and Payments**

- 15.1 A claim for travel and subsistence allowances must be made in writing within two months of the end of the calendar month in which entitlement to allowances arises and must be accompanied by the relevant receipts.
- 15.2 Allowances will be paid by the Chief Officer Resources by direct bank credit.

#### **16. Pensions**

- 16.1 The Authority shall enable its Members who are eligible to join the Local Government Pension Scheme.

#### **17 Supporting the work of Authority Members**

- 17.1 The Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales expects Members to be provided with adequate support to carry out their duties and that the support provided should take account of the specific needs of individual Members. The Authority's Democratic Services Committee is required to review the level of support provided to Members and should take proposals for reasonable support to the full council.
- 17.2 All elected Members and Co-opted Members should be provided with adequate telephone, email and internet facilities to give electronic access to appropriate information.
- 17.3 Such support should be without cost to any Member. Deductions must not be made from Members' salaries as a contribution towards the cost of support which the Authority has decided is necessary for the effectiveness and or efficiency of Members.

#### **18 Compliance**

- 18.1 In accordance with the Regulations, the Authority must comply with the requirements of Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales in respect of the monitoring and publication of payments made to Members and Co-opted Members as set out in **Schedule 4**.

**Members and Co-opted Members are reminded that expense claims are subject to both internal and external audit.**

## SCHEDULE 1

### SCHEDULE OF REMUNERATION 2023-24

<b>MEMBERS ENTITLED TO BASIC SALARY</b>	<b>ANNUAL AMOUNT OF BASIC SALARY</b>
<p>The following named elected members of the authority</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Keith Chaplin</li><li>2. Julie Holt</li><li>3. Ross Leadbeater</li><li>4. Godfrey Thomas</li><li>5. Dean Woods</li><li>6. John P Morgan</li><li>7. Jules Gardner</li><li>8. John Hill</li><li>9. Derrick Bevan *</li><li>10. George Humphreys</li><li>11. Malcolm Day</li><li>12. Dai Davies</li><li>13. Jen Morgan</li><li>14. Carl Bainton</li><li>15. Jacqueline Thomas ***</li><li>16. Lee Parsons</li><li>17. Peter Baldwin</li><li>18. Sonia Behr **</li><li>19. Gareth A Davies</li><li>20. David Wilkshire</li><li>21. Dianne Rowberry</li><li>22. Ellen Jones **</li></ol> <p><i>* Denotes relinquished amount of £200 per annum</i> <i>** Denotes relinquished amount of £240 per annum</i> <i>*** Denotes relinquished amount of £480 per annum</i></p>	£17,600

	<b>SENIOR SALARIES ENTITLEMENTS (includes basic salary)</b>		<b>ANNUAL AMOUNT OF SENIOR SALARY</b>
	<b>ROLE</b>	<b>MEMBER</b>	
1.	Leader / Cabinet Member – Corporate Overview & Performance	Stephen Thomas	£56,100 (Relinquished £3,240 per annum)
2.	Deputy Leader / Cabinet Member – Place & Environment	Helen Cunningham	£39,270 (Relinquished £1500 per annum)
3.	Cabinet Member – Place & Regeneration and Economic Development	John C Morgan	£33,660 (Relinquished £1,200 per annum)
4.	Cabinet Member – People & Education	Sue Edmunds	£33,660 (Relinquished £240 per annum)
5.	Cabinet Member – People & Social Services	Hayden Trollope	£33,660 (Relinquished £1,200 per annum)
6.	Chairperson of People Scrutiny Committee	Tommy Smith	£26,400 (Relinquished £240 per annum)
7.	Chairperson of Place Scrutiny Committee	Malcolm Cross	£26,400 (Relinquished £240 per annum)
8.	Chairperson of Partnerships Scrutiny Committee	Wayne Hodgins	£26,400
9.	Chairperson of Planning Committee/General Licensing/Statutory Licensing Committees	Lisa Winnett	£26,400
10.	Leader of the Independent Group / Chairperson of Corporate & Performance Scrutiny Committee	Joanna Wilkins	£26,400
11.	Presiding Member of the Council	Chris Smith	£26,400 (Relinquished £600 per annum)

	<b>SENIOR SALARIES ENTITLEMENTS (includes basic salary)</b>		<b>ANNUAL AMOUNT OF SENIOR SALARY</b>
	<b>ROLE</b>	<b>MEMBER</b>	
12.	Not Used		
13.	Not Used		
14.	Not Used		
15.	Not Used		
16.	Not Used		
A maximum of 16 senior salaries for Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council may be paid and this has not been exceeded.			

<b>ENTITLEMENT TO CIVIC SALARIES</b>		<b>ANNUAL AMOUNT OF CIVIC SALARY</b>
<b>ROLE</b>	<b>MEMBER</b>	
Civic Head (Mayor or Chair)	Not Used	N/A
Deputy Civic Head (Deputy Mayor or Chair)	Not Used	N/A

<b>ENTITLEMENT AS STATUTORY CO-OPTees</b>		<b>AMOUNT OF CO-OPTees ALLOWANCES</b>
<b>ROLE</b>	<b>MEMBER</b>	
Chairperson Of Standards Committee	TBC	£268 Daily Fee £134 ½ Day Fee
Chairperson of Governance & Audit Committee	J. Absalom	£268 Daily Fee £134 ½ Day Fee
Statutory Co-optees – Ethics & Standards Committee, Education OVSC Committee, Governance & Audit Committee, Crime and Disorder OVSC	<u>Ethics &amp; Standards:</u> R. Lynch S. Williams S. Rosser H. Roberts Vacant  <u>Audit</u> M. Veale Vacant  <u>People Scrutiny Committee</u> T. Baxter T. Pritchard	£210 Daily Fee £105 ½ Day Fee

ENTITLEMENT AS STATUTORY CO-OPTees		AMOUNT OF CO-OPTees ALLOWANCES
ROLE	MEMBER	
	Vacant	
Statutory Co-optees -ordinary members of Standards Committee who also chair Standards Committees for Community Councils	Not Used	£238 Daily Fee £119 ½ Day Fee

Contribution towards costs of care and personal assistance	
All Members	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formal (registered with Care Inspectorate Wales) care costs to be paid as evidenced.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	

Members Support – what is provided in terms of telephone, internet or email (see Determination 6)	
Telephone Support for Executive Members	
Telephone Support for Chairs of Committees	
Telephone Support for all other Members	
Access to Email for Executive Members	
Access to Email for Chairs of Committees	
Access to Email for all other Members	
Internet Support for Executive Members	
Internet Support for Chairs of Committees	
Internet Support for all other Members	

## **SCHEDULE 2**

### **Approved duties: -**

- attendance at a meeting of the Authority or of any committee of the Authority or of any body to which the Authority makes appointments or nominations or of any committee of such a body;
- attendance at a meeting of any association of authorities of which the Authority is a member;
- attendance at any other meeting the holding of which is authorised by the Authority or by a committee of the Authority or by a joint committee of the Authority and one or more other Authorities;
- a duty undertaken for the purpose of or in connection with the discharge of the functions of Cabinet;
- a duty undertaken in pursuance of a standing order which requires a Member or Members to be present when tender documents are opened;
- a duty undertaken in connection with the discharge of any function of the Authority which empowers or requires the Authority to inspect or authorise the inspection of premises;
- attendance at any training or developmental event approved by the Authority or its Cabinet;
- Any other duty approved by the authority, or any other duty of a class so approved, undertaken for the purpose, of or in connection with, the discharge of the functions of the authority or any of its committees.

## **SCHEDULE 3**

### **Mileage Rates**

All sizes of private motor vehicle Up to 10,000 miles Over 10,000 miles	45 pence per mile 25 pence per mile
Private Motor Cycles Pedal Cycles	24 pence per mile 20 pence per mile
Passenger supplement	05 pence per mile

## **Subsistence Allowance**

The day subsistence rate is up to a maximum of £28 and covers a 24 hour period and can be claimed for any meal if relevant provided such a claim is supported by receipts.

Re-imburement of alcoholic drinks is not permitted.

## **Overnight Stay**

The maximum allowances for an overnight stay are £200 for London and £95 for elsewhere. A maximum of £30 is available for an overnight stay with friends or relatives whilst on approved duty.

## **SCHEDULE 4**

### **Compliance**

- The Authority will arrange for the publication on the council's website the total sum paid by it to each Member and Co-opted Member in respect of salary, allowances, fees and reimbursements not later than 30 September following the close of the year to which it relates. In the interests of transparency this will include remuneration from all public service appointments held by elected Members.
- The Authority will publish on the council's website a statement of the basic responsibility of a councillor and role descriptors for senior salary office holders, which clearly identify the duties expected.
- The Authority will publish on the council's website the annual schedule of Member Remuneration not later than 31 July of the year to which the schedule refers.
- The authority will send a copy of the schedule to the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales not later than 31 July of the year to which the schedule refers.
- The Authority will maintain records of Member or Co-opted Members attendance at meetings of council, cabinet and committees and other approved duties for which a Member or Co-opted Member submits a claim for reimbursement.
- The Authority will arrange for the publication on the council's website of annual reports prepared by Members.
- When the Authority agrees a paid substitution for family absence it will notify the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales within 14 days of the date of the decision of the details including the particular post and the duration of the substitution.