

# Payments to Councillors

If you are thinking of seeking election to become a councillor, here are some facts on what payments you would be entitled to receive.

## Are payments made to councillors?

Yes. All elected members of principal authorities in Wales are entitled to receive a basic annual salary which in 2020–2021 is set at £14,218. Members with additional responsibilities, such as executive member or chair of a committee, receive higher salaries.

These payments are subject to income tax. Reasonable expenses are also paid. Details of payments made to individual members are published by the local authority each year, although reimbursement of costs of care is published only as a total global sum. The levels of payments are set out in the IRPW's Annual Report. See the link below.

## Is special support available?

Yes. Authorities are required under legislation to provide for members who have particular support needs to enable them to carry out their duties as councillors. In addition, reimbursement of costs involved in providing care for dependents whilst engaged in member duties may also be claimed.

## Does a councillor have to receive payments?

IRPW encourages councillors to accept their salaries and expenses but they may refuse part or whole payment by expressing their wish personally and individually in writing to the proper officer of their local authority at any time during their period of office.

## Why are payments made to Councillors?

Being a councillor is a demanding and busy role. Everyone should be free and enabled to participate actively in local democracy, whatever their age, gender, income, disability or family responsibilities.

Wide and diverse involvement leads to more representative membership of local authorities and more democratic decisions. A reasonable level of payments enables anyone to participate.

## Who sets these payments?

The Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (IRPW) is the body which determines levels of entitlement to payments for members of Welsh local authorities from ordinary member to

leader of the council. The Panel also determines payment levels for members of Fire and Rescue Authorities and National Park Authorities and town and community councils in Wales.

## More information?

Further details are available on the IRPW's website where you can read the Annual Report which is published each February following consultation.

The website also has a FAQ section and gives an opportunity to ask questions.

[www.gov.wales/irpwsb/home](http://www.gov.wales/irpwsb/home)