

Question 1

The Panel has continued to use the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) published by the Office for National Statistics as the benchmark for setting the basic salary of elected members of principal councils. There is a corresponding proportionate increase proposed for the members of National Park and Fire and Rescue Authorities. The Panel has continued to refer to the last published ASHE which was 2021. Do you agree that the basic salary element should be referenced to the ASHE 2021 data?

Yes

No

No Opinion

Any Additional Comments

The Authority believes that linking salaries to the AHSE 2021 ensures an independence and clarity for payments to Councillors. It helps ensure that the former 'Race to the Bottom' approach by Authorities will not be returned to by putting in place a clear mechanism of how salaries are calculated.

Question 2

The Panel has made changes to the payment of costs and expenses of members of community and town councils. Do you agree with the addition of the "consumables" element?

Yes

No

No Opinion

Any Additional Comments

It ensures that Community / Town Councillors are reasonably remunerated for such costs.

Question 3

The Panel will gather evidence from principal councils to explore whether and how the workload of elected members has changed to inform future Determinations. Are you content that the Panel should build this review into its future work plan and build the evidence base to support decisions?

Yes

No

No Opinion

Any Additional Comments

The creation of evidence-based decisions ensures that remuneration levels are appropriate and reasonable.

Question 4

We have significantly reduced the size of the report this year to concentrate on key decisions made and intend to make more use of the website to provide easy to use guidance to users. This approach is also in line with our efforts to respect the challenges facing us in protecting our planet. How would you like to access information and guidance from the Panel? (choose all that apply)

Summary report with links to detailed guidance

Social media

Easy to use guidance notes

Information events

Frequently asked questions

Website

Other

If Other, Please Specify:

Detailed, easy to use guidance notes together with frequently asked questions on the IRPW website would be welcomed.

Question 5

The Panel intend to undertake a series of engagements with all relevant stakeholders over the next year as part of the development of its forward planning and building of its evidence and research strategy. Have you any comments that would help the Panel shape this engagement? For example, a preference for online polls, the holding of engagement events, virtual or face to face, which groups should be involved, how do we engage with prospective candidates etc.

A mix of approaches are welcomed.