DLG 05
Ymchwiliad i amrywiaeth ym maes llywodraeth leol
Inquiry into diversity in local government
Ymateb gan: Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Merthyr Tudful
Response from: Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council

Mae Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Merthyr Tudful yn cytuno'n llwyr fod angen i aelodau etholedig ddeall persbectif y grwpiau cymdeithasol amrywiol y maent yn eu cynrychioli; a'r ffordd orau o gyflawni hyn yw i'r Cynghorwyr adlewyrchu'r amrywiaeth honno o fewn Siambr y Cyngor.

Yn ein barn ni, mae'n rhaid mai addysg ffurfiol yw'r ffordd fwyaf dylanwadol o sefydlu dealltwriaeth person ifanc o'r broses ddemocrataidd. Os yw rhywun yn deall yr hyn maen nhw'n ei wneud a pham, maen nhw'n fwy tebygol o gymryd rhan. Rydym yn obeithiol y bydd cyflwyno cynrychiolaeth yn ddiweddar o'r Fforwm Ieuenctid Fwrdeistref-eang (FfIFEMT/MTBWYF) ar bob un o bum Pwyllgor Craffu CBS Merthyr Tudful ynghyd â'r gostyngiad posibl yn yr oedran pleidleisio, yn agor drysau i ni i siarad â phobl ifanc cyn iddynt adael addysg orfodol. Ar hyn o bryd, oni bai bod myfyriwr yn aros i astudio lefelau 'A' maen nhw'n gadael yr ysgol cyn eu bod yn ddigon hen i bleidleisio ac os nad yw eu teuluoedd yn pleidleisio, neu os nad ydynt yn gwybod beth i'w wneud ac os nad ydynt yn pleidleisio'r amser cyntaf, mae hyn yn aml yn gosod patrwm ar gyfer eu bywyd fel oedolion yn y dyfodol.

Rydym hefyd yn cydnabod cyfle i hyrwyddo'r ffaith bod aelodau etholedig yn cael cyflog, ac angen cysylltiedig i hysbysebu'n eang yn union beth mae'r rôl yn ei olygu a pha hyfforddiant a chymorth sydd ar gael i ymgeiswyr llwyddiannus. Gobeithir y byddai hyn yn sicrhau bod unrhyw un sy'n meddwl sefyll am etholiad yn gwybod bod y cyhoedd yn cydnabod yr angen am gyflog priodol oherwydd natur arwyddocaol y cyfraniadau a wneir gan gynghorwyr lleol. Byddai hefyd yn lleddfu pryderon am eu gallu i ddal swydd oherwydd anableddau corfforol neu 'gymwysterau' - enghraifft sydd, yn ein barn ni, yn gwneud cyhoeddusrwydd yn ffordd hwylus o annog pobl ddi-waith hirdymor, gofalwyr, rhieni sengl a phobl anabl i sefyll am etholiad pe baent yn gwybod beth a ddisgwylid ganddynt, a gallant fod yn hyderus o'r gefnogaeth briodol.

Mae'n annhebygol y bydd awgrymiadau yn y Papur Gwyrdd: Cryfhau Llywodraeth Leol: Cyflawni ar gyfer Pobl, sy'n cyfeirio at newidiadau mewn strwythur sy'n cynorthwyo i gefnogi amrywiaeth yn llwyddo heb roi cefnogaeth gadarnhaol i rôl aelodau etholedig. Mae'r sefyllfa gyfredol i'r gwrthwyneb, trwy annog argyfwng beirniadol ac sy'n rhoi enghraifft o'r system yn gwneud hyn mewn ffordd sy'n cael effaith andwyol ar ymgysylltu, fel sydd yn cael ei ddangos yn yr erthygl atodedig a gyhoeddwyd gan bapur newydd lleol yr wythnos diwethaf, lle mae cyflogau aelodau etholedig yn cael eu cymharu, heb esboniad, mewn ymgais fwriadol i achosi anghydfod cyhoeddus. Byddwn yn parhau i gael anhawster i annog amrywiaeth nes bod rôl aelod etholedig yn cael ei ystyried yn y ffordd bositif y mae'n ei haeddu.

How much our councillors have claimed in past year

HAVE you ever wondered what and how much councillors claim for on their expenses?

ANTHONY LEWIS
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Figures recently published by Merthyr Tydfil Council show just that. Each year, councils legally have to publish data which shows councillors' basic salaries, travel allowances, senior salaries and pension contributions, among other things.

In total, just under £584,000 was paid in remuneration to councillors in Merthyr Tydfil in 2017-18.

■ **Salaries**

During the past financial year, £238,000 was paid in basic salaries for councillors in Merthyr Tydfil and £331,000 in senior salaries for executive members.

The highest senior salary paid by the council was to the leader Kevin O'Neill, Independent, who got £35,000 in addition to his basic allowance.

The lowest being just over £2,200 paid to councillors Gareth Jones, Thomas Lewis and former leader of the opposition Richard Thomas.

The highest basic salary was more than £14,000, paid to Labour's Councillor Clive Jones, and the lowest was just over £1,300, paid to former councillors Simon Williams, Leighton Smart, Anthony Chaplin, David Davies, Allan Jones, Brian Mansbridge, John McCarthy and Michael O'Neill. Former mayor councillor Kevin Gibbs received £16,000 in his civic salary.

■ **Travel expenses**

Last year four councillors claimed for a travel allowance.

Councillor Ernie Galsworthy, Labour, claimed for £1,428 and the leader Kevin O'Neill, Independent, claimed for £176.

Councillor Harvey Jones, Labour, claimed for £45 and former councillor Richard Thomas claimed £37. Councillor Galsworthy also claimed £631 in subsistence allowance.

■ **Payments from other public bodies**

Councillor Kevin Gibbs received £736 for being part of the South Wales Police and Crime Panel and more than £1,200 for his role on the South Wales Fire and Rescue Service panel.

Councillor Tony Rogers, Independent, received more than £2,400 related to his role on the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority and former councillor Raymond Thomas received nearly £530 for this.

■ **Co-opted members**

Allowances were also given to various non councillors who have been co-opted on to committees.

This totalled just under £4,800 for nine members, with the highest amount (£891) given to David Allan Gibby, who was co-opted on to the audit committee.

■ **Pension contributions**

More than £14,000 was paid to councillors in pension contributions, with the highest being just over £1,600 for deputy leader of the council Lisa Mytton, and the lowest being around £79 to the former opposition leader Richard Thomas and former councillor Allan Jones, although some councillors did not receive a council pension contribution.

Some councillors opted to forgo as much as 2% of their allowances.

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