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CYNGOR SIR
YNYS MÔN
ISLE OF ANGLESEY
COUNTY COUNCIL

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Prif Weithredwr – Chief Executive
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RHYBUDD O GYFARFOD	NOTICE OF MEETING
PWYLLGOR GWASANAETHAU DEMOCRATAIDD	DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE
DYDD MERCHER, 14 RHAGFYR 2016 am 2.00 o'r gloch	WEDNESDAY, 14 DECEMBER 2016 at 2.00 pm
SIAMBR Y CYNGOR SWYDDFEYDD Y CYNGOR LLANGFNI	COUNCIL CHAMBER COUNCIL OFFICES LLANGFNI
Swyddog Pwyllgor	Shirley Cooke 01248 752514 Committee Officer

AELODAU / MEMBERS

Cynghorwyr / Councillors:-

Annibynnol / Independent

Derlwyn R Hughes, Victor Hughes, (Is-Gadeirydd/Vice-Chair) Richard Owain Jones,
Dafydd Rhys Thomas

Plaid Cymru / The Party of Wales

Vaughan Hughes (Cadeirydd/Chair), R Meirion Jones, R G Parry, OBE, FRAGS,
Dylan Rees

Llafur / Labour

J Arwel Roberts

Grŵp Chwyldroad / Revolutionist Group

Peter S Rogers

A G E N D A

1 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

To receive a declaration of interest from any Member or Officer in respect of any item of business.

2 MINUTES (Pages 1 - 6)

To submit for confirmation, the draft minutes of the meetings of this Committee held on the following dates:-

- 12th May, 2016
- 24th October, 2016

3 WEBCASTING (Pages 7 - 8)

To submit a report by the Head of Democratic Services.

DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 12 May 2016

- PRESENT:** Councillor Vaughan Hughes (Chair)
- Councillors D R Hughes, Victor Hughes, R Meirion Jones, R G Parry OBE, Dylan Rees, J A Roberts, R O Jones and Dafydd Rhys Thomas
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Chief Executive,
Head of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer,
Head of Democratic Services,
Committee Officer (MEH).
- APOLOGIES:** None
- ALSO PRESENT:** Councillor Bob Parry OBE FRAGS – Chair of the County Council
-

1 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None received.

2 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

Councillor T. Victor Hughes was elected Vice-Chair for the Democratic Services Committee.

**COUNCILLOR VAUGHAN HUGHES
CHAIR**

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DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 24 October 2016

- PRESENT:** Councillor Vaughan Hughes (Chair)
Councillor Victor Hughes (Vice-Chair)
- Councillors Richard Owain Jones, R Meirion Jones,
R G Parry OBE, Dylan Rees and J A Roberts
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Head of Democratic Services,
Committee Officer (MEH).
- APOLOGIES:** Councillor Dafydd Rhys Thomas
- ALSO PRESENT:** Councillors K.P. Hughes, Alwyn Rowlands (Members of the
Executive)
-

1 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None received.

2 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 March, 2016 were confirmed as correct, subject to the amendment to Item 3 – Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Report 2016/17 which should read ‘The Council was allocated 15 senior salary posts for 2015/16, but decided to allocate senior salaries to 14 office holders to reduce democratic costs.

3 INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES

Submitted – the report of the Head of Democratic Services on the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales draft report on payments to elected Members.

The Head of Democratic Services reported that the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales has decided to increase the basic allowance for Members from £13,300 to £13,400. This is an increase of 0.75% and the first increase for 3 years. There are no changes in respect of senior salaries which remain as they are for 2016/17 and the senior salaries allocated to the Council are set at 15 for 2017/18. He further referred to Section 11 of the report which provides details of changes to the framework to be applied for dealing with long term sickness which are consistent with arrangements that apply for family absence. Also there are proposals to change the way details of care allowances are published and guidance was provided in Appendix 4 of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales’ report.

The Head of Democratic Services referred to Sections 3.16 to 3.18 within the report with regard to the role of the Democratic Services Committee to review the support

provided to Elected Members. In view of the need to plan ahead for the Council in May 2017 it is proposed to arrange focus groups with Members with regard to the use of ICT and relevant matters. It was noted that there will be a need to review outside bodies in accordance with the Council's decision in May 2016.

The Chair stated that he and the Head of Democratic Services will attend a meeting of the Independent Remuneration Panel in Llandudno on the 26th October, 2016 and he was willing to convey any matters which the Committee wish to raise.

The Committee considered the report and raised the following issues :-

- Members had reservations with the increase in the basic allowance;
- Whilst being satisfied that arrangements are now been made to arrange training for new Members following the May 2017 Elections it was considered that training and briefing sessions needs to be phased to allow Members to digest all the information presented to them.

RESOLVED to accept the report and to ask the Chair to raise the Committee's reservations with the increase in the basic allowance at the Independent Remuneration Panel meeting to be held on 26th October, 2016.

ACTION : As noted above.

4 MEMBER DEVELOPMENT PLAN - APRIL, 2016 - MARCH, 2017

Submitted – the joint report of the Head of Democratic Services and the Human Resources Development Manager in relation to the draft training programme for Members in May 2017.

The Head of Democratic Services reported that the Member Development Plan seeks to address the needs of Members to support and evaluate their roles as Elected Members. The Development Plan for the period April 2016 to March 2017 was attached to the report which highlighted the main areas of training opportunities being offered during the current financial year. The Development Plan seeks to accommodate Members needs with workshops, mentoring, e-learning and one-to-one sessions. He further stated that a twelve month Induction Programme has been developed by the WLGA in collaboration with all Local Authorities in Wales.

The Committee considered the report and made the following comments :-

- Induction Training sessions needs to be phased;
Budgetary and Treasury Management sessions need to be held in the first 3 months in preparation for the annual budget.

RESOLVED to accept the report and comments noted above.

Action : As noted above.

5 COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2016/17

Submitted – the proposed Committee’s Work Programme for 2016/17.

The Head of Democratic Services reported that it recommended that the Democratic Services Committee should focus on the following areas :-

- The Member Development and Training Plan including Personal Development Reviews;
- Webcasting of meetings;
- Members Annual Reports;
- Independent Remuneration Panel Annual Report;
- Review of arrangements to support Members in advance of new Council including ICT and outside bodies.

Arising from discussion Members noted the potential to webcast some meetings of Scrutiny Committees where items of public interest are discussed.

Following deliberations it was **RESOLVED to accept the report and that a report be submitted on the options available with regard to webcasting of Council meetings to the next meeting of this Committee including Scrutiny Committees.**

Action : As noted above.

The meeting concluded at 2.35 pm

**COUNCILLOR VAUGHAN HUGHES
CHAIR**

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ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL	
NAME OF COMMITTEE:	DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE
DATE OF MEETING:	14 DECEMBER, 2016
TITLE:	WEBCASTING
PURPOSE OF REPORT:	TO REPORT ON RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2017/18
AUTHOR:	HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

1.0 Background and context

- 1.1 The Democratic Services Committee has requested a report on the options available in relation to webcasting including extending to Scrutiny Committees.
- 1.2 Since June 2014, the Council has been piloting webcasting meetings of the Council, Executive and Planning and Orders Committees and progress reports submitted to this Committee. The Council's current arrangements for webcasting meetings are in line with a number of Councils in Wales and some authorities have extended webcasting to include Scrutiny Committees, particularly to cover items of particular public interest.

2.0 Future Requirements

- 2.1 The national context needs to be borne in mind in planning the way forward. It is likely that Welsh Government will refer to webcasting in the next Local Government Bill and any future mandatory requirements. The White Paper, Reforming Local Government Power to Local People (February 2015) made reference to "the intention at the time to legislate to require that all full Council and Executive meetings must be broadcast online, at the same time encouraging the broadcasting of Committees".

3.0 Funding

- 3.1 Members will be aware that each Council received a grant of £40k from Welsh Government towards the initial cost of piloting webcasting. The

current position on funding is that there is provision in the budget to cover costs in 2016/17 only – annual costs being approximately £10,000 and no provision included in the draft settlement.

- 3.2 It is recommended that the Committee authorises the Head of Democratic Services, in consultation with the Chair of the Democratic Services Committee, to make representations to Welsh Government seeking the continuation of grant funding to cover the costs of webcasting and obligations that may be set out in a future Local Government Bill, which is viewed as an additional cost to local government at a time of reduced budgets.
- 3.3 In view of the need for clarity on future requirements and central Government funding, the SLT recommend that current arrangements should continue for 2017/18. This Committee may wish to undertake an evaluation of the current pilot after a 3 year period i.e in 2017/18 once clarity is received from Welsh Government.
- 3.4 In the meantime, it is recommended that provision will need to be allocated in the budget for 2017/18 to cover current costs.

4.0 Recommendations

- 1) To continue with the pilot of webcasting meetings of the Council, Executive and Planning and Orders Committee in 2017/18.
- 2) To recommend to the Executive that a sum of £10,000 be included in the budget for 2017/18 to cover necessary costs.
- 3) That representations be made to Welsh Government in accordance with para 3.2 above with regard to central government funding to cover cost and any future statutory requirements.

Huw Jones
Head of Democratic Services
05.12.16