

DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 30 September 2015

- PRESENT:** Councillor Vaughan Hughes (Chair)
- Councillors D R Hughes, Victor Hughes, R Meirion Jones, R G Parry OBE, Dylan Rees, J A Roberts, P S Rogers and Dafydd Rhys Thomas
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Head of Democratic Services
Committee Officer (SC)
- APOLOGIES:** Councillor Richard Owain Jones

1 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

No declaration of interest was received.

2 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

Councillor Richard Owen Jones was re-elected Vice-Chair of this Committee in his absence.

3 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 25th March, 2015 were confirmed as correct.

4 WEBCASTING OF MEETINGS

Submitted - a progress report by the Head of Democratic Services summarising information regarding webcasting of meetings as part of the 2 year pilot.

It was noted that Group Leaders and the SLT support the continuation of webcasting and the likelihood that future legislation will require Local Authorities in Wales to broadcast meetings of the full Council and the Executive. Grant provision would likely cover costs during 2016/17 and this would need to be reported to the Executive for a decision.

RESOLVED that the Committee support the continuation of webcasting meetings of the Executive, County Council and Planning and Orders Committee.

5 MEMBERS' ANNUAL REPORTS

Submitted - a report by the Head of Democratic Services in relation to Members' Annual Reports, highlighting that all Members have prepared an Annual Report for 2014/15, and information published online.

The Head of Democratic Services referred to the proposed timescale for completing and publishing Members' Annual Reports for 2015/16, with 30th June, 2016 being the deadline.

RESOLVED to accept the report.

6 DIVERSITY IN DEMOCRACY

Submitted - a report by the Head of Democratic Services in relation to the Welsh Government Expert Group on Diversity in Local Government.

The Head of Democratic Services also referred to the Mentoring Programme, and information published on the Welsh Governments website including information for individuals interested in standing as a Councillor in the 2017 elections.

RESOLVED to accept the report.

7 COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2015/16

Submitted - the report of the Head of Democratic Service on the Committee Work Programme for 2015/16.

The Head of Democratic Services reported that the Committee has identified the following as part of its work programme for the 2015/16:-

- Member Development and Training Plan (including Personal Development Reviews);
- Webcasting of meetings;
- Members' Annual Reports;
- Independent Remuneration Panel Annual Report;
- Adequacy of arrangements to support the roles of Members;
- Budget for 2015/16 and impact on Democratic Services.

RESOLVED to accept the report.

The meeting concluded at 2.50 pm

**COUNCILLOR VAUGHAN HUGHES
CHAIR**