

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL

MEETING:	COUNTY COUNCIL
DATE:	23 MAY 2017
TITLE OF REPORT:	Democratic Services Committee – Annual Report 2016/17
REPORT BY:	Chair of Democratic Services Committee
PURPOSE OF REPORT:	To report on the Work of the Committee during 2016/17

1. Introduction

The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 places a duty on the Council to establish a Democratic Services Committee as supported by the Head of Democratic Services.

The main purpose of the Committee is to review the adequacy of provision within the Authority in terms of staff, accommodation and other resources to fulfill the duties and functions of Democratic Services. Under the Measure the Committee is obliged to meet at least once per annum and to report on such matters to Council.

This is the fifth annual report prepared by the Committee since its establishment in 2012.

2. Work Programme of Committee

This report summarises the issues discussed by the Committee during 2016/17 and also provides commentary on current status.

In general the Committee has focused on the following areas:

- Member Development and Training Plans
- Webcasting of meetings
- Independent Remuneration Panel Annual Report
- ICT provision for Members

The table below summarises the issues discussed at each meeting during the past year.

Date of Committee	Subject	Current Status
24/10/2016	Independent Remuneration (IRP) Panel for Wales – draft report	This report requested views on the proposals contained in the draft report for 2017/18 in terms of Member remuneration. The IRP's final report was issued in February 2017 and submitted to the Committee in March 2017.
	Member Development Plan 2016/17	This report provided an update on the 2016/17 Development Plan for Members following approval by Council in May 2016. The report also focused on proposals for induction of new Members after the May 2017 elections. The Member Development Plan for 2017/18 was approved by Council in February 2017 and is now being implemented.
14/12/2016	Webcasting of meetings	This report covered options available for webcasting meetings beyond 2016/17 and recommended that current arrangements for webcasting – namely meetings of the Council, Executive and Planning Committee continue in 2017/18. However, Council funding was required since Welsh Government grant aid would not be available. Funding of £10,000 was allocated by the Council in the budget for 2017/18 to continue with current arrangements. During 2017/18 the Committee will need to review webcasting arrangements as part of its Work Programme having regard to any future statutory requirements. In the meantime, the Committee resolved that representations be made to Welsh Government requesting that funding be made available to cover any future statutory requirements. The Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government has confirmed that funding obligations will be reviewed in due course.

29/3/2017	IRP final report for 2017/18	The IRP's final determinations for 2017/18 was considered and the Committee made recommendations on the level of senior salaries payable. A separate report will be considered by Council on 23 rd May, 2017.
	ICT provision for Members	<p>This report outlined recommendations in respect of ICT provision for Members, following Council elections in May 2017 including new iPads with additional functionality for all Members.</p> <p>This has now been actioned with support from ICT staff.</p>
	Member Development and Induction Plan 2017/18	This report provided an update on arrangements to support Members in their roles, following approval of the Plan by the Council in February 2017. This plan is currently being implemented and will be further updated and reviewed by this Committee later this year.

3. Recommendation

The County Council is requested to accept the report and note the matters considered by the Committee during 2016/17

Chair of Democratic Services Committee

11/05/2017