

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 29 July 2021

- PRESENT:** Councillor Robert Llewelyn Jones (Chair)
- Councillors John Griffith, Richard Griffiths, Vaughan Hughes,
Eric Wyn Jones, Robert G Parry, OBE, FRAgS, Dylan Rees
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Head of Democratic Services
Committee Officer (SC)
- APOLOGIES:** Councillor Dafydd Roberts
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1. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None received.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings held on the following dates were confirmed as correct:-

- 16 March 2021
- 18 May 2021

3. DIVERSITY DECLARATION

The Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) has considered diversity in local government, and has agreed to encourage every Council to adopt a Diversity Declaration as part of the commitment by local authorities to promote diversity, prior to the 2022 elections.

The Head of Democratic Service reported that a working group was established to gather evidence of under-representation in democracy. The group presented its findings in a report to the WLGA Council at its meeting on 5 March 2021. The report acknowledges that people from various backgrounds are encouraged to stand for election, and a national campaign is planned to address this.

The Head of Democratic Services reported that the Council supports a Diversity Declaration, which is consistent with the Authority's strategic aims to reflect the local community. It was noted that the Council is hoping to increase the number of women, young people, disabled people and people from ethnic minority groups who stand for election.

Following the WLGA Council meeting in March this year, local Councils have been requested to adopt a Diversity Declaration and prepare an action plan.

The Committee noted that allowances paid to Elected Members are insufficient to encourage young people, and those of working age to stand for election. Members also reiterated the importance of encouraging people of varying age groups, backgrounds and experience to be nominated for election.

A Member requested that it be noted that comments made in today's meeting on Members' allowances be mentioned when the matter is presented before Council. It was noted that an action plan will be submitted to the next meeting of the Democratic Services Committee to support the Declaration.

RESOLVED:-

- **To recommend that full Council adopts the draft Diversity Declaration in its September meeting, and**
- **That delegated authority be given to the Democratic Services Committee to agree an action plan in its next meeting.**

The meeting concluded at 2.15 pm

**COUNCILLOR ROBERT LL JONES
CHAIR**