

## ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL

<b>MEETING:</b>	<b>COUNTY COUNCIL</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>12 MAY 2016</b>
<b>TITLE OF REPORT:</b>	<b>Democratic Services Committee – Annual Report 2015/16</b>
<b>REPORT BY:</b>	<b>Chair of Democratic Services</b>
<b>PURPOSE OF REPORT:</b>	<b>To report on the Work of the Committee during 2015/16</b>

### 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 fourth 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 2015/16 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, and Town and Community Council websites
- Members Annual Report
- Independent Remuneration Panel Annual Report

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

<b>Date of Committee</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Current Status</b>
30/09/2015	Webcasting of meetings	<p>This report provided an update on the current pilot and statistical information on the number of visits or “hits” to the Councils website, both live and archive. The report also sought the Committee’s views on the webcasting of meetings beyond the current pilot which was due to end in March 2017. The Committee supported the continuation of webcasting of meetings that are part of the current pilot in the future. An Executive decision has now been taken by relevant portfolio holders to continue the webcasting of meetings until March 2017.</p> <p>A progress report will be submitted to the Committee during 2016/17. The issue of future funding will need to be addressed as part of the Council’s budget preparations for 2017/18.</p>
	Members Annual Reports	<p>This report focused on the preparation of Annual Reports by Members for 2015/16 noting that all Members had prepared reports in respect of 2014/15 and information published on the Council website by the 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2014.</p> <p>The task of preparing annual reports for the last financial year is currently in hand and information is scheduled to be included on the Council’s website by 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2016.</p>
	Diversity and Democracy	<p>This report provided an update to the Committee following a report on the 18<sup>th</sup> June, 2014 on the recommendations expert group on Diversity in Local Government established by Welsh Government to improve diversity in Local Government at the 2017 elections.</p> <p>It was noted that Councillor Carwyn Jones is the Council’s Diversity Champion and a member of the North Wales network to support the work of the expert group. Information</p>

		produced by the expert group will be included on the Council's website later this year in preparation for the local elections in 2017.
	Committee Work Programme	This report focused on matters to be discussed by the Committee during 2015/16 in line with matters previously discussed during 2014/15. The work programme will be updated by the Committee during 2016/17.
23/3/2016	Independent Remuneration Panel Report for Wales 2016/17	This report provided information on the level of allowances payable in respect of 2016/17 as determined by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales. The Committee has made recommendations with regard to the level of payments for Executive Members, Committee Chairs and the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council. These are matters for the Council to consider on the 12 <sup>th</sup> May, 2016.
	Induction for new Members in 2017	This report sought the Committee's views on an initial framework to support Induction activities for new Members following the local elections in 2017, and provided an opportunity for the Committee to comment on the WLGA consultation document. Comments have been submitted to the WLGA on the basis that training will need to be proportionate to the workload of Members and the potential for more e-learning opportunities. The framework will be developed further by the WLGA during the next few months. Similarly, the Council's training plan will be developed further in preparation for future requirements.
	Diary of meetings 2016/17	This report presented information on the schedule of meetings for 2016/17 and provides an opportunity for the

		Committee to comment on the start time of Scrutiny Committees. This information will be presented to the Council on the 12 <sup>th</sup> May, 2016.
	Community Council Websites	This report provided an update to the Committee on the take up of the grant available for Town and Community Councils for website development. This information was also reported to the Standards Committee on the 9 <sup>th</sup> March, 2016.

### **3) Recommendation**

The County Council is requested to accept the report and note the matters considered by the Committee during 2015/16

**Chair of Democratic Services Committee**  
**26/04/2016**