

MEETING	Democratic Services Committee
DATE	11 December, 2013
SUBJECT	Social Media Protocol
PURPOSE	To submit an initial draft of a social media protocol for councillors
AUTHOR	Geraint George Head of Democratic Services

1. At its last meeting, the committee decided as follows:-

“(a) To recommend that Gwynedd should adopt its own guidelines on the use of social media.

(b) To recommend establishing a sub-group jointly with the Standards Committee to collaborate on drawing up guidelines on social media for councillors in Gwynedd (with the exact process for achieving this to be agreed between the Chairs of both committees).

(c) To nominate the Chair of this committee, Councillor Lesley Day, and Councillors Selwyn Griffiths and Sion Wyn Jones to serve on the sub-group.”

2. The Social Media Task Group met on 18th November. The meeting was attended by three members of the Standards Committee and also two of the councillors from this committee. There was a very beneficial discussion in terms of taking advantage of and the risks related to the use of social media by councillors.

3. In terms of the way forward, it was agreed to prepare a local protocol and the work of preparing that protocol with the members of working group is in hand. Appended for the committee’s information is the current draft of the protocol as it stands. The plan is for the Task Group to approve the final draft in the next few weeks consulting widely with every member of the Council after that with a view to the Standards Committee adopting it at its next meeting for submission to the full Council on 6th March.

4. Clearly, whilst there will be no further meeting of this committee before then, it would be good to have the committee’s initial views now, bearing in mind that it will be possible for each member to respond in due course to the wider consultation.

5. Initial observations are sought on the attached draft protocol.