

DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE DECISION NOTICE

(Section 100C of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by the Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Meetings) (Wales) Regulations 2020)

17 November 2020

Virtual Meeting

Attendance:

Councillors:

Anne Lloyd Jones (Chair), Annwen Daniels, Annwen Davies, Anwen Hughes, Judith Humphreys, Eryl Jones-Williams, Cai Larsen, Edgar Wyn Owen, Robert Dewi Owen, Dewi Wyn Roberts.

Officers:

Geraint Owen (Head of Corporate Support department), Vera Jones (Democracy and Language Services Manager), Annes Sion (Democracy Team Leader), Natalie Lloyd Jones (Democracy Services Officer).

Others invited:

Carey Cartwright, Sam Angel and Cara Williams (Learning and Development Team) for item 9.

Apologies:

Councillor Linda Ann Jones.

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(Section 100C of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by the Local Authorities (Coronavirus) Regulations (Meetings) (Wales) 2020)

Date of Democratic Services Committee Meeting	17 November 2020
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SUBJECT

Item 6 : REMUNERATION FOR ELECTED MEMBERS

DECISION

- (a) To accept the report.
- (b) It was agreed that the Chair would write a letter to the members promoting the reimbursements in an attempt to increase the number of those claiming.

Reasons:

The report noted that the number of people who claimed a reimbursement for personal costs or care costs remained very low and, therefore, the Committee needed to promote the provision.

THE RESULT OF THE VOTE

In favour	10
Against	0
Abstentions	0

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND PROTOCOL MATTERS

No declarations of personal interest or relevant dispensations were received.

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SUBJECT

Item 7 : ADOPTERS ABSENCE

DECISION

To accept the report.

Reasons:

It was noted that this would ensure that elected members received the same rights as officers. It was suggested that this would promote diversity in democracy.

THE RESULT OF THE VOTE

In favour	10
Against	0
Abstentions	0

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND PROTOCOL MATTERS

No declarations of personal interest or relevant dispensations were received.

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(Section 100C of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by the Local Authorities (Coronavirus) Regulations (Meetings) (Wales) 2020)

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SUBJECT

Item 8: DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT FOR MEMBERS DURING THE COVID PANDEMIC AND IN FUTURE

DECISION

- (a) To accept the report.
- (b) It was agreed that further discussions were needed on the way forward after the members voiced their opinions on the format of meetings in future.

Reasons:

Following a discussion on the way meetings are held currently and to the future, members expressed their desire to see some particular committees meeting face to face as and when necessary.

It was considered that the current methods are convenient in many ways in relation to saving time and costs; however, there was a feeling that it would be essential to meet physically in some cases. Observations from the opening discussion were received, which will be presented for further internal discussions.

THE RESULT OF THE VOTE

In favour	10
Against	0
Abstentions	0

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND PROTOCOL MATTERS

No declarations of personal interest or relevant dispensations were received.

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SUBJECT

Item 9 : LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT PROVISION FOR MEMBERS

DECISION

To accept the report.

Reasons:

Due to the Covid-19 crisis, it had not been possible to conduct training in the 'traditional' way for some time, and developing alternative methods e.g. virtual ('remote') training for the future was unavoidable.

With this in mind, a training programme was created for 2020/21, and efforts would be made to hold a variety of relevant titles of a high standard.

It was noted that a number of the existing members had been on training courses and welcomed the new methods of working virtually. It was added that more members attended due to the convenient nature of receiving remote training.

THE RESULT OF THE VOTE

In favour	8
Against	0
Abstentions	0

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND PROTOCOL MATTERS

No declarations of personal interest or relevant dispensations were received.

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SUBJECT

Item 10 : DIVERSITY IN DEMOCRACY

DECISION

DECISION:

To accept the report and support the direction of the work programme.

Reasons:

The Diversity Sub-group was established in order to endeavour to promote greater diversity from diverse backgrounds to stand in Local Government elections.

The change in legislation meant that young people aged 16 and 17 years old could vote in Senedd Cymru elections from 2021 onwards, and in Local Government elections from 2022 onwards.

The change in legislation had brought opportunities with it.

It was noted that the current period reflected the need to seek members from different backgrounds so that they are able to respond in various methods to the challenges arising within the community.

THE RESULT OF THE VOTE

In favour	8
Against	0
Abstentions	0

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND PROTOCOL MATTERS

No declarations of personal interest or relevant dispensations were received.
