

MEETING	Full Council
DATE	08/12/2016
TITLE	Arrangements for Local Government Elections, 2017
PURPOSE	To raise the awareness of Council Members of the arrangements being developed for the Local Government Elections, May 2017
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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 As members are aware, the Local Government elections will take place on 4th of May 2017. The Democratic Services Committee has been preparing and planning in order to ensure that Council arrangements are in place for members who are elected in May 2017.
- 1.2 A small group of members was set up and this group has been leading on establishing these arrangements. The group identified three work streams for the preparatory work, namely:
- Preparing candidates
 - Welcome days and the training programme
 - Technology Considerations
- 1.3 In developing programmes for these three areas, it is important to note that members have considered the messages and lessons following the arrangements in 2012, messages from elected members stemming from their personal development interviews, as well as consulting with all of the Committee and the Council's Business Group.
- 1.4 Please note that the work builds upon the work of the Diversity Sub-group, which has been working for a while to encourage individuals from different backgrounds to stand in local government elections. A short video has been created to encourage individuals who are considering standing as a Councillor, and it can be viewed through the Council's website. We will be able to view the video during the meeting.

2. Sessions to Prepare Candidates

- 2.1 The purpose of the preparatory sessions is to give prospective candidates an opportunity to meet officers and Council members and to get more information regarding what is expected of them and an opportunity for an informal talk. The sessions have been organised in response to observations from several Members who were not clear regarding what to expect following an election win.

2.2 A session has been organised in each of the three areas as follows:

DATE	LOCATION	TIME
17th January, 2017	Frondeg, Pwllheli	6 - 8pm
18th January 2017	Cae Penarlâg, Dolgellau	6 - 8pm
19th January 2017	Siambwr Dafydd Orwig, Caernarfon	6 - 8pm

2.3 For information, we will raise awareness of the sessions via the Council's website and on our Twitter and Facebook accounts by contacting Community Councils and via the political groups. It is also proposed to consult with members in the Area Forums on how to raise more publicity.

2.4 We are also fully aware that not all potential candidates would wish to attend a public meeting. Many prefer to search for information on line these days, and therefore work has been undertaken to improve the information available on the Council's website for individuals considering standing in the elections. The information can be viewed on the following link:

<https://www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/en/Council/Councillors-and-committees/Councillors-and-committees.aspx>

2.5 The information on the website is provided under the following titles:

- The Role of a Councillor
- Am I eligible?
- How to stand for election?
- After being elected
- Facilities and support for Councillors

3. Welcome days and the training programme

3.1 The welcome days for all members will take place on Tuesday 9th May and Wednesday, 10th May in Caernarfon.

3.2 The arrangements for 2017 are quite different to what was given in the past. The days are a combination of joint formal sessions for all and informal sessions in smaller groups. There is also a variety of formal presentations with the emphasis on equipping members to be able to find information themselves. We have tried to identify the main factors that are essential for members to have in order to equip them for the first days.

3.3 An outline of the contents of these days and the arrangements can be seen in **Appendix B**.

3.4 In addition, it has been necessary to try and identify a further training programme to the welcome days. The work is currently on-going to try and identify different methods of learning in order to facilitate this for members e.g. e-learning,

webinars, brief sessions in the area forums etc. We will also collaborate with the Welsh Local Government Association to develop some joint sessions across North Wales.

4. Technology Considerations

- 4.1 As the Council is trying to encourage electronic communication where possible, the group is also considering the requirements in terms of the electronic provision for elected members following the 2017 elections. It is necessary to undertake this as the existing provision of ipads have reached the end of their lifespan following a period of five years.
- 4.2 In order to ensure that the group comes to the correct conclusion, members are currently trialling different equipment and using them every day to fully assess them. The group will undertake an appraisal of the equipment by the end of January and will consider a number of different factors in the assessment before coming to a conclusion.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 Council Members are requested to accept the contents of the report.