

## **Pwyllgor Gwasanaethau Democrataidd**

**Lleoliad:** Ystafell Bwyllgor 5 - Neuadd y Ddinas, Abertawe

**Dyddiad:** Dydd Llun, 16 Ebrill 2018

**Amser:** 5.00 pm

**Cadeirydd:** Cyngorydd Peter Black

**Aelodaeth:**

Cynghorwyr: N J Davies, M Durke, L S Gibbard, K M Griffiths, J A Hale, S M Jones, E T Kirchner, W G Lewis, I E Mann, S Pritchard, C Richards, K M Roberts, B J Rowlands, G J Tanner, L J Tyler-Lloyd a/ac L V Walton

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### **Agenda**

### **Rhif y Dudalen.**

- |          |  |                |
|----------|--|----------------|
| <b>1</b> | <b>Ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb.</b>   |                |
| <b>2</b> | <b>Datgeliadau o fuddiannau personol a rhagfarnol.</b><br><a href="http://www.abertawe.gov.uk/DatgeliadauBuddiannau">www.abertawe.gov.uk/DatgeliadauBuddiannau</a> |                |
| <b>3</b> | <b>Cofnodion.</b><br>Cymeradwyo a llofnodi cofnodion y cyfarfod(ydd) blaenorol fel cofnod cywir  | <b>1 - 3</b>   |
| <b>4</b> | <b>Adolygiad o Dampled Adroddiad Blynyddol Cynghorwyr.</b>   | <b>4 - 14</b>  |
| <b>5</b> | <b>Adolygiad o Lawlyfr Cynghorwyr (Adrannau B a C).</b>  | <b>15 - 32</b> |
| <b>6</b> | <b>Y Diweddaraf am We-ddarlledu a Phleidleisio'n Electronig.</b>   | <b>33 - 35</b> |



**Huw Evans**  
**Pennaeth Gwasanaethau Democrataidd**  
**Dydd Llun, 9 Ebrill 2018**

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**Cyswllt: Gwasanaethau Democrataidd - (01792) 636923**



City and County of Swansea

## Minutes of the **Democratic Services Committee**

Committee Room 5 - Guildhall, Swansea

Tuesday, 30 January 2018 at 5.00 pm

**Present:** Councillor P M Black (Chair) Presided

**Councillor(s)**

N J Davies  
W G Lewis  
B J Rowlands

**Councillor(s)**

L S Gibbard  
S Pritchard  
L J Tyler-Lloyd

**Councillor(s)**

K M Griffiths  
K M Roberts  
L V Walton

**Officer(s)**

Huw Evans  
Allison Lowe  
Tracey Meredith

Head of Democratic Services  
Democratic Services Officer  
Head of Legal, Democratic Services and Business  
Intelligence and Monitoring Officer

**Apologies for Absence**

Councillor(s): M Durke, J A Hale, S M Jones, E T Kirchner, I E Mann, C Richards and G J Tanner

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### 15 Disclosures of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.

In accordance with the Code of Conduct adopted by the City & County of Swansea no interests were declared.

### 16 Minutes.

**Resolved** that the Minutes of the Democratic Services Committee held on 7 November 2017 be approved and signed as a correct record.

### 17 Timing of Council Meetings - Survey.

The Head of Democratic Services provided a report on the outcome of the Councillors Survey on Timings of Council Meetings.

Section 6 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 requires the Authority to undertake a survey of Councillors regarding the timing and frequency of Council meetings at least once during each term of the administration.

Following the Local Government Elections in May 2017, it was deemed appropriate not to conduct this survey immediately following the election in order to allow Councillors to have some time to understand the requirements of being a Councillor and the time commitment which it commands. As such, the Head of Democratic

Services delayed the survey until 21 December 2017 with the survey ending on 12 January 2018.

The survey, which had been completed by 60 out of the 72 Councillors and its results were outlined in Appendix B of the report.

The Committee discussed the various issues that can affect Councillors attendance at meetings such as employment, caring responsibilities, health and public transport. The Head of Democratic Services reiterated that Councillors were able to claim up to £403 per month for reimbursement of costs of care. He encouraged Councillors with caring responsibilities to utilise this facility.

Councillors acknowledged that unfortunately, timings of meetings would never suit all, therefore they agreed that the most appropriate course of action would be to continue with the current format and allow each Committee to consider the timing of their own meetings at the first meeting of each Committee. It was noted that the Committee would only be able to alter the time of the Committee, not the day.

**Resolved** that:

- 1) The report be noted;
- 2) The Council diary for the 2018-2019 Municipal Year be drafted maintaining the format of the 2017-2018 Municipal Year diary;
- 3) "Timing of Future Meetings" be a standard item on the agenda of the first meeting of each Committee.

## **18 Councillors' Annual Reports 2016-2017. (Verbal update)**

The Head of Democratic Services provided a verbal update on the number of Councillor Annual Reports received for the 2016-2017 municipal year.

To date 42 out of 53 returning Councillors had completed an annual report. These will all be published online in due course.

Councillors first elected in May 2017 were not eligible to complete an annual report for 2016-2017 as they were not Councillors during that period. However a number of newly elected Councillors had submitted a short paragraph about their activities undertaken since elected, which had been published in the "about me" section of their page on the Council's website. All Councillors newly elected in 2017 could utilise this facility.

The Head of Democratic Services went on to state that he would update the Committee on final figures at the next meeting. The Committee would also review the format of the Annual Report as we had not considered this since its implementation in 2012.

**Resolved** that the update be noted.

**19 Councillor Pledge on Standards. (Verbal Update).**

The Head of Democratic Services reported that 61 out of 72 Councillors had signed the Councillor Pledge on Standards.

The forms would be published on the Council's website.

**Resolved** that the update be noted.

**20 Councillor -v- Councillor Local Dispute Resolution Protocol. (Verbal Update)**

The Head of Democratic Services reported that 69 out of 72 Councillors had signed the Councillor-v-Councillor Local Dispute Resolution Protocol.

He was hopeful that that remaining 3 Councillors would also sign-up in due course.

The forms would be published on the Council's website.

**Resolved** that the update be noted.

**21 Workplan.**

The Head of Democratic Services outlined Workplan for the next meeting:

- Annual Reports – update and review of template;
- Review of Councillors Handbook (Sections B and C).

**Resolved** that the Workplan be noted.

The meeting ended at 5.22 pm

**Chair**



## Report of the Head of Democratic Services

Democratic Services Committee – 16 April 2018

### Review of Councillors Annual Report Template

<b>Purpose:</b>	To review the Councillors Annual Report Template in order to ensure that it remains fit for purpose and removes any duplication of duty.
<b>Policy Framework:</b>	None.
<b>Consultation:</b>	Access to Services, Finance, Legal.
<b>Recommendation(s):</b>	It is recommended that:  1) The amended Councillors Annual Report Templates be adopted.
<b>Report Author:</b>	Huw Evans
<b>Finance Officer:</b>	Ben Smith
<b>Legal Officer:</b>	Tracey Meredith
<b>Access to Services Officer:</b>	Sherill Hopkins

#### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 Section 5 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 contains provisions intended to strengthen local democracy. Section 5 requires each Local Authority to ensure that their Councillors are able to make an Annual Report on their Council activities during the previous year. It also enables Cabinet Members to report on their Executive duties. This information is to be published on the Authority's website.
- 1.2 The Authority has made arrangements enabling Councillors to produce Annual Reports; however it is a personal matter for Councillors whether they wish to publish an Annual Report.
- 1.3 The Authority has placed a link to a Councillors Annual Report from the Authority's website detailing information on individual Councillors. Councillors Annual Reports may be viewed at [www.swansea.gov.uk/councillors](http://www.swansea.gov.uk/councillors)

## **2. Councillor Annual Report Templates**

- 2.1 The Statutory Guidance relating to Councillors Annual Reports is set out in **Appendix A**. The Guidance states that Annual Reports should avoid promoting political achievements, be written in the past tense and limited to 2 sides of A4. The Authority limits a Councillor in receipt of a Civic or Senior Salary to 3 sides of A4 in order to allow them space to outline their special responsibility work.
- 2.2 The Guidance states that “*Annual Reports might be expected to include; Role and responsibilities (membership of internal and external committees, panels, groups and organisations); Constituency Activity; Initiatives and Special Activities, Learning & Development; and Other Activities*”.
- 2.3 On 2 October 2013, the Democratic Services Committee considered this Guidance and recommended that Council adopt a Councillor Annual Report Template.
- 2.4 The template was adopted by Council on 19 November 2013 and at the same time delegated power was given to the Head of Democratic Services in consultation with the Democratic Services Committee to amend the Councillors Annual Report standard template and associated guidance notes.
- 2.5 The template was later amended slightly to create two templates namely:
  - Councillor Annual Report. For Councillors in receipt of a Basic Salary (**Appendix B**);
  - Councillor Annual Report. For Councillors in receipt of a Civic or Senior Salary (**Appendix C**).
- 2.6 The templates are almost identical. The only difference being the position that they are remunerated for i.e. Civic or Senior Salary is outlined.

## **3. Review of Councillor Annual Report Templates**

- 3.1 A substantial amount of work is required by Officers to populate Section 2 “Councillor Attendance at selected Council Body Meetings” and Section 5 “Learning and Development”. Much of this work is to copy the relevant statistics from the published web page and to reformat it all so that it is readable in MS Word. This is not a good use of Officers time during a period where smarter working is vital. It is therefore proposed to cease populating these areas and in future to simply place the relevant web link in the appropriate section.
- 3.2 The remaining Sections appear to remain valid and useful from a Councillors and member of the public perspective. Councillors’ views are sought relating to improvement / changes.

- 3.3 As Section 2 “Councillor Attendance at selected Council Body Meetings”, Section 5 “Learning and Development” and Section 7 “Councillors Remuneration” will be pre populated, it is proposed that the Democratic Services Team publish the Councillors Annual Reports in June / July each year regardless of whether a Councillor has completed the other sections. The rationale behind this being that the relevant sections of interest to the public will be listed.

#### **4. Guidance to Councillors on Producing Annual Reports**

- 4.1 These are some quick tips to assist Councillor in producing Councillor Annual Reports.
- 1) Although it is not spelt out in the Guidance, this Authority has defined it to mean a Municipal Year i.e. from the Annual Meeting of Council until the day before the next Annual Meeting of Council.
  - 2) Content must be in the past tense.
  - 3) Limited to 2 sides of A4 for a Councillor in receipt of a Basic Salary;
  - 4) Limited to 3 sides of A4 for a Councillor in receipt of a Civic or Senior Salary;
  - 5) Content must avoid promoting political achievements;
  - 6) Councillors are advised to compile their Annual Reports throughout the year, as it is so easy to forget the work carried out;
  - 7) Annual Reports should be published following any Local Government Election in May, June or July. Although late additions are permissible;
  - 8) All Councillor Annual Reports will be translated into Welsh and English prior to being published online.

#### **5. Equality and Engagement Implications**

- 5.1 There are no equality or engagement implications associated with this report.

#### **6. Financial Implications**

- 6.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

#### **7. Legal Implications**

- 7.1 There are no specific legal implications associated with this report.

**Background Papers:** None.

#### **Appendices:**

- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| <b>Appendix A</b> | Statutory Guidance relating to Councillors Annual Reports                        |
| <b>Appendix B</b> | Councillor Annual Report. For Councillors in receipt of a Basic Salary           |
| <b>Appendix C</b> | Councillor Annual Report. For Councillors in receipt of a Civic or Senior Salary |



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

[www.cymru.gov.uk](http://www.cymru.gov.uk)

# Statutory Guidance from the Local Government Measure 2011

## Section 5 Annual Reports

May 2013



## **Annual Reports by Members of a Local Authority**

### **Statutory Guidance made under Section 5 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011**

#### **Introduction**

1.1 Part 1 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 (“the Measure”) contains provisions intended to strengthen local democracy. Chapter 1 of that Part concerns the support provided to members of a local authority and section 5 within that chapter provides for the production of annual reports for these members.

1.2 This statutory guidance is issued under section 5(4) of the Measure. The guidance relates to local authorities making arrangements for the production of annual reports.

#### **What the Measure requires.**

1.3 Section 5 requires county and county borough councils (local authorities) to ensure that all their elected members are able to make an annual report on their council activities during the previous year. This includes enabling any member of the council’s executive to be able to report on their executive activities also. Any reports produced by members of a county or county borough council must be published by that council.

A local authority is free to set conditions/limits on what is included in a report.

A local authority must publicise what arrangements it has for publishing annual reports and in drawing up these arrangements must have regard to this guidance in so doing.

#### **Guidance**

##### **Duties of a local authority**

1.4 A local authority must make the arrangements enabling its members to produce annual reports. This means it must tell its members how and by when to do this. The Measure, at section 8 *et seq*, provides for a Head of Democratic Services (HDS) to carry out democratic services functions as defined in section 9. This includes the provision of support and advice to members to assist them in the carrying out of their functions and organisation of the annual report process would fall within this. The Measure prevents the HDS from providing support and advice to a member of an executive in relation to the carrying out of that member’s executive functions, but production of an annual report, even if it made reference to the member’s executive activities, is not an executive function in itself.

## Publication of reports

1.5 How a local authority decides to publish Members annual reports is a matter for that authority to decide upon. The minimum requirement would be for the authority to include a link to a member's annual report on that part of the authority's website which carries details of individual members. There is no requirement for any publicity beyond this, and authorities should be careful that, if they decide to provide any further publicity for the reports, the same provision is provided for all members. Therefore, should a member request that his/her report is given any greater publicity, that request should be declined unless carried out in respect of all members.

Local authorities should ensure also that their website includes information about the introduction of annual reports and how members of the public can access them.

## Content of reports

1.6 The central purpose of the reports is for members of the public to find information about their local councillor's activity.

In considering its approach a local authority should have regard to the resource implications of supporting all local Members to prepare for publication of their annual report. In order to contain the scale of the task, an authority may wish to create a standard annual report template that acknowledges the need to strike a balance between resources and output, whilst taking into account the requirements of the Data Protection Act.

Local Authorities should ensure that Annual reports avoid promoting political achievements, are written in the past tense, and limit the report template to two sides of A4.

The template for Members Annual Reports might be expected to include; Role and responsibilities (membership of internal and external committees, panels, groups and organisations); Constituency Activity; Initiatives and Special Activities, Learning & Development; and Other Activities.

1.7 Local authorities may place their own restrictions on content in reports. Annual reports should include only factual information. In the main that would suggest information on meetings, events and conferences etc. attended, training and development received. While it might be acceptable to record information such as "made representations on behalf of the campaign to save the local hospital in the following ways", it would not be acceptable to say "succeeded in saving local hospital by my efforts on my constituents' behalf".

1.8 Similarly, care should be taken to avoid including in reports information concerning activities when the member concerned is not operating in the role of councillor. So, whereas it would be acceptable to include information concerning,

for instance, a speech made at a conference where the member was attending because of their council role, it would not be acceptable to refer to a speech made to, for instance, a Party conference, where the member was a delegate from their local party organisation.

1.9 Care should also be taken not to include information which could be interpreted as critical of another member. For instance, it would not be acceptable for a member to compare his/her attendance or activities with that of another member or members.

1.10 The following areas are proposed as standard items to be included:

- Role and responsibilities – to include details of membership of committees and outside bodies, attendance records for these and full council.
- Local activity – details of surgeries held, representations made on behalf of electors and the results of these
- Major projects – involvement in local, county or regional initiatives or projects.
- Learning and development – details of training and development events attended or undertaken, conferences and seminars attended.

## City & County of Swansea - Councillor's Annual Report 2016-2017

This Councillor's Annual Report outlines their activities over the year ending **24 May 2017**. It is provided for the information of all constituents and for no other purpose. The views expressed in this report are those of the Councillor and do not necessarily reflect the views of the City and County of Swansea.

<b>Councillor:</b>		<b>Electoral Division:</b>	
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### Section 1: Constituency activities

*This section covers your activities on behalf of your constituents. Please list, or comment on, such activities as, the number of surgeries you have held and other support given to constituency initiatives. If there have been major campaigns please list these in Section 4.*

### Section 2: Councillor attendance at selected Council body meetings

Attendance at Council body meetings is only one of the important elements of a Councillor's duties. Councillors are also active by holding surgeries, attending meetings and dealing with general electoral division enquiries.

Attendance % based on Committee membership shown below:

### Section 3: Councillors role and responsibilities

*This section covers Council responsibilities, e.g. Committees not listed in 2 above. Please list positions of responsibility you have held during the year. Attendance at non Council recorded meetings may be included here too.*

# City & County of Swansea - Councillor's Annual Report 2016-2017

## Section 4: Initiatives and Special activities

*This section covers major initiatives or special projects carried out on behalf of constituents or the City & County of Swansea. For example you may have been involved in, or even headed, a working party or action group to study or report on some major activity. Please give a summary of the activity, the work involved and, if concluded, the outcome.*

## Section 5: Learning and Development

*This section covers the special knowledge or skills that you bring to the role of Councillor. For example, you may be a specialist planner or have particular experience of one facet of Council activities. Please indicate if there is anything special you bring to the role or there is any special training that you have received that helps you in your role.*

## Section 6: Other activities and issues

*This section is for you to write anything else about which you feel your constituents should be aware.*

## Section 7: Councillors Remuneration

Basic Salary: £13,300

Councillors travel and subsistence claim forms can be viewed here:

<http://democracy.swansea.gov.uk/ecCatDisplay.aspx?sch=doc&cat=13266&path=0&LLL=0>

Councillors annual expenses and allowances can be viewed here:

<http://democracy.swansea.gov.uk/ecCatDisplay.aspx?sch=doc&cat=13284&path=0&LLL=0>

<b>Date:</b>	
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## City & County of Swansea - Councillor's Annual Report 2016-2017

This Councillor's Annual Report outlines their activities over the year ending **24 May 2017**. It is provided for the information of all constituents and for no other purpose. The views expressed in this report are those of the Councillor and do not necessarily reflect the views of the City and County of Swansea.

<b>Councillor:</b>		<b>Electoral Division:</b>	
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<b>Senior Salary Position:</b>	
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### Section 1: Constituency activities

*This section covers your activities on behalf of your constituents. Please list, or comment on, such activities as, the number of surgeries you have held and other support given to constituency initiatives. If there have been major campaigns please list these in Section 4.*

### Section 2: Councillor attendance at selected Council body meetings

Attendance at Council body meetings is only one of the important elements of a Councillor's duties. Councillors are also active by holding surgeries, attending meetings and dealing with general electoral division enquiries.

Attendance % based on Committee membership shown below:

### Section 3: Councillors role and responsibilities

### Section 4: Initiatives and Special activities

## City & County of Swansea - Councillor's Annual Report 2016-2017

### Section 5: Learning and Development

*This section covers the special knowledge or skills that you bring to the role of Councillor. For example, you may be a specialist planner or have particular experience of one facet of Council activities. Please indicate if there is anything special you bring to the role or there is any special training that you have received that helps you in your role.*

### Section 6: Other activities and issues

*This section is for you to write anything else about which you feel your constituents should be aware.*

### Section 7: Councillors Remuneration

Senior Salary:

Councillors travel and subsistence claim forms can be viewed here:

<http://democracy.swansea.gov.uk/ecCatDisplay.aspx?sch=doc&cat=13266&path=0&LLL=0>

Councillors annual expenses and allowances can be viewed here:

<http://democracy.swansea.gov.uk/ecCatDisplay.aspx?sch=doc&cat=13284&path=0&LLL=0>

<b>Date:</b>	
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## Report of the Head of Democratic Services

Democratic Services Committee - 16 April 2018

### **Review of Councillors Handbook Section B “Support Services” & Section C “Protocols”**

<b>Purpose:</b>	To review the Councillors Handbook in order to streamline its content and to move towards a digital only version.
<b>Policy Framework:</b>	None.
<b>Consultation:</b>	Access to Services, Finance, Legal.
<b>Recommendation(s):</b>	It is recommended that:  1) The amended Councillors Handbook be recommended to Council for adoption.
<b>Report Author:</b>	Huw Evans
<b>Finance Officer:</b>	Ben Smith
<b>Legal Officer:</b>	Tracey Meredith
<b>Access to Services Officer:</b>	Sherill Hopkins

#### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The Councillors Handbook aims to provide relevant information to Councillors / Co-opted Members. A review of Sections A and D of the Councillors Handbook was undertaken by the Democratic Services Committee on 7 November 2017. The recommendations of that Committee were adopted by Council on 14 December 2017.
- 1.2 The reports deals with the remainder of the Councillors Handbook namely Section B “Support Services” & Section C “Protocols”. The Head of Democratic Services has conducted an initial review of these Sections.
- 1.3 The review has seen the deletion of repetitive and defunct elements within the Councillors Handbook. The aim being to simplify the document so that it becomes more user friendly and relevant for Councillor and Co-opted Members alike. It is also intended to turn it into a web based document.



## **2. Section B “Support Services” of the Councillors Handbook**

- 2.1 With the introduction of Councillors Self-Serve and changes to working practice due to modernisation and austerity, much of the content in this area is no longer relevant and has been deleted. **Appendix A** below sets out the newly titled “Councillor and Co-opted Member Support Services”.
- 2.2 It has proven too complicated to produce a tracked changes version of the document due to the large number of deletions and amendments. However, the current Section B “Support Services” may be viewed at [www.swansea.gov.uk/cllrshandbook](http://www.swansea.gov.uk/cllrshandbook) until May 2018.

## **3. Section C Protocols” of the Councillors Handbook**

- 3.1 With the introduction of Councillors Self-Serve and changes to working practice due to modernisation and austerity, much of the content in this area is no longer relevant and has been deleted. **Appendix B** below sets out the newly titled “Councillor & Co-opted Member Protocols”.
- 3.2 It has proven too complicated to produce a tracked changes version of the document due to the large number of deletions and amendments. However, the current Section C “Protocols” may be viewed at [www.swansea.gov.uk/cllrshandbook](http://www.swansea.gov.uk/cllrshandbook) until May 2018.

## **4. Equality and Engagement Implications**

- 4.1 There are no equality or engagement implications associated with this report.

## **5. Financial Implications**

- 5.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

## **6. Legal Implications**

- 6.1 There are no specific legal implications associated with this report.

**Background Papers:** None.

### **Appendices:**

- Appendix A Councillor and Co-opted Member Support Services
- Appendix B Councillor & Co-opted Member Protocols

### **Section B**

#### **Councillor and Co-opted Member Support Services**

##### **1. Cabinet Office & Democratic Services**

- 1.1 The Cabinet Office provides a Personal Assistant role to the Cabinet (Executive) Members.
- 1.2 The Democratic Services (DS) Team provides general administrative support to all non-executive Councillors.

##### **2. Correspondence**

- 2.1 As part of the Sustainable Swansea - Fit for the Future programme, Councillors and Co-opted Members have become more self-sufficient. The self-serve agenda has seen Councillors embracing IT, associated software and the Oracle payments system.
- 2.2 Councillors are expected to manage their own e-mails, diary and correspondence. Should they require any support then training can be provided in certain areas by the Training Team.
- 2.3 The Cabinet Office / DS Team can assist with proof reading of documents on request.
- 2.4 The Cabinet Office / DS Team can send out general non-political mailings for Councillors Electoral Ward work. However, Councillors are expected to type their own letters although the Teams can assist with formatting. The Cabinet Office / DS Team will arrange for the letters to be printed via DesignPrint but any folding or postage costs will be taken from the individual's Councillors Community Budget.
- 2.5 The Cabinet Office / DS Team can't deal with correspondence that is political, contains information which could be deemed to be libellous or is of a personal nature.

##### **3. Council Bodies Diary**

- 3.1 The Council Bodies Diary may be viewed online at <http://www.swansea.gov.uk/councildiary>
- 3.2 The Cabinet Office will assist with the management of diaries for Cabinet Members. All other Councillors and Co-opted Members are expected to manage their own diaries.

#### **4. Political Group Rooms**

4.1 Depending on the size of a Political Group, it is likely to have a room allocated to it. Rooms will be provided with the following items:

- Pigeonhole for your agendas, mail etc. to be left for your collection;
- PC(s);
- Telephone(s);
- Storage facilities (currently 2 filing cabinet drawers per Councillor);
- Office furniture.

#### **5. Identity (ID) Card**

5.1 All Councillors are required to wear their ID Card at all times. The Card allows access within the Civic Centre and Guildhall.

5.2 If your ID Card won't allow you access, visit  
<http://www.swansea.gov.uk/staffnet/replacementflexicard>

5.3 If you lose or misplace your ID Card please inform the Cabinet Office / DS Team immediately. HR will "block" the card to ensure it is not misused by anyone else. A replacement can be ordered at a personal charge to the Councillor (currently £5).

5.4 Temporary passes can be obtained from the DS Team and must be returned prior to exiting the building on the same day.

#### **6. Receipt of Mail / Agendas etc.**

6.1 Incoming mail including agendas for Council meetings will be distributed daily and left in pigeonholes provided for each Councillor.

6.2 The Authority currently provides a mail delivery service for all Councillors on a Friday evening; however Councillors are asked to make every effort to collect any agendas / mail directly from their pigeonholes in order to reduce costs.

6.3 A number of Councillors have opted out of the mail delivery service. They have chosen to collect agenda(s) themselves and utilise the Modern.gov app to download electronic versions of the agenda. Agendas are also emailed out directly to all Councillors. The Councillors, Democracy and Elections web pages may be viewed at <https://democracy.swansea.gov.uk/>

6.4 **If you wish to Opt Out of the Mail Delivery Service, please inform the Cabinet Office / DS Team.**

## **7. e-mailing & Postage**

- 7.1 Councillors are advised to use electronic correspondence wherever possible. The Authority can send mail on behalf of a Councillors; however for bulk mail the cost will be deducted from their Councillors Community Budget.
- 7.2 The Cabinet Office / DS Team will not print out all e-mails for a Councillor. However training can be arranged so that the Councillor is taught how to do so.

## **8. Councillors Microsite (SharePoint)**

- 8.1 A dedicated Councillors “micro-site” online tool is available to display useful information for Councillors. [Micro Site Login](#).

## **9 Administrative Support**

- 9.1 Both Teams will answer general telephone queries from members of the public, and signpost where necessary to the relevant Councillor or, provide Assembly Member / Member of Parliament etc. contact details.
- 9.2 Both teams will act as a central contact point for Councillors for their general enquiries for Departments and provide information regarding Officer contacts within Service Departments.

## **10. Photocopying, Fax & Scanning Service**

- 10.1 Multi-Functional Devices (MFD's) are available in key locations throughout the Authority. All Councillors will be provided with a printer account which may be accessed via a Councillor ID card. Please note that personal printing is not permitted.
- 10.2 The MFD's also include a scanning facility which allows documents to be scanned and sent via e-mail.

## **11. ICT Support**

- 11.1 There are two ways to contact the ICT Service Desk  
  
01792 63 6900 or [ict.servicedesk@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:ict.servicedesk@swansea.gov.uk)

## **12. Training**

- 12.1 The Authority will arrange or inform Councillors of training opportunities which will include Courses, Seminars, Conferences, Induction Training for all Councillors and Other training subject to resources / budgetary availability.

### **13. Electoral Ward Surgery Support**

- 13.1 The Authority will pay a reasonable charge for surgery hire, following prior agreement from the Head of Democratic Services.
- 13.2 Invoices for surgeries should then be forwarded to the DS Team on a monthly or quarterly basis and by the end of March of the relevant financial year for processing.
- 13.3 Surgery Posters can be printed indicating surgery details for distribution within the electoral ward.

### **14. Web Pages**

- 14.1 Councillors are advised to take advantage of the “About You” section on the Council’s website as it allows an opportunity for you to highlight your interests etc. Information may be found at [www.swansea.gov.uk/councillors](http://www.swansea.gov.uk/councillors)

### **15 Councillor Meeting Room**

- 15.1 A Councillor Meeting Room is located in Room 235, Guildhall. The room will accommodate 12-14 people around a table.
- 15.2 Bookings will be allocated on a “first come first served” basis and meeting slots shall be restricted to 2 hours. Block bookings shall not be permitted unless it is for a purpose such as a regular Political Group Meeting. The Head of Democratic Services shall operate a reasonable use protocol for the room.
- 15.3 Bookings are to be made by contacting the Democratic Services (DS) Team on 01792 63 6923 or e-mail [democracy@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:democracy@swansea.gov.uk)

### **16. Further Information Contact List**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Tel:</b>
Cabinet Office	01792 63 6141
Democratic Services (DS) Team	01792 63 6923
Head of Democratic Services	01792 63 5757
Chief Executive	01792 63 7501
Section 151 Officer	01792 63 6423
Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal, Democratic Services and Business Intelligence	01792 63 6699
IT Service Desk	01792 63 6900

**Section C**

**Councillor & Co-opted Member Protocols**

**Contents**

- 1) Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor Protocol
- 2) How Councillors and Officers Deal with Planning Applications
- 3) Title of Lord Mayor or Deputy Lord Mayor in Councillors Correspondence
- 4) Access to Political Group Rooms and Other Councillor Areas by Members of the Public
- 5) Councillors Correspondence
- 6) Response to Councillor Correspondence Protocol

## **Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor Protocol**

This Protocol is not shown within this report as it was recently amended by Council on 20 April 2017. The Protocol will appear in the online version of the Councillors Handbook.

## **How Councillors and Officers Deal with Planning Applications**

### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The planning system involves taking decisions about the development and use of land in the wider public interest, in accordance with the provisions of the Development Plan, unless there are overriding material planning consideration which indicate otherwise.

### **2. Role of Councillors**

- 2.1 Councillors determine the Council's Planning Policy. They must abide by the provisions of the Code of Conduct during the development plan process. It is essential that they exercise their own responsibility to declare any personal interests such as land ownership or business interests which may be affected when plans are in preparation.
- 2.2 When Planning Committee Members come to make a decision on a planning application they will:
- a. Act fairly and openly;
  - b. Approach each application with an open mind;
  - c. Carefully weigh up all relevant issues;
  - d. Determine each application on its own merits;
  - e. Avoid undue contact with interested parties;
  - f. Ensure that the reason for their decisions are clearly stated.
- 2.3 Non-Planning Committee Members are not bound by rules of pre-determination and are generally free to:
- a. Discuss any planning application with an applicant and/or lobby group;
  - b. Attend any meeting arranged by an applicant and/or lobby group;
  - c. Attend and speak at a Community / Town Council meeting;
  - d. Relay relevant information about an application to the planning officer;
  - e. Seek information from the planning officer.
- 2.4 They must at all times abide by the Member Code of Conduct and cannot improperly influence planning officers.

### **3. Role of Officers**

- 3.1 The officers' function is to advise and assist Councillors in matters of Planning Policy and in their determination of planning applications by:
- a. Providing impartial and professional advice;
  - b. Making sure that all information necessary for the decision to be made is given;
  - c. Providing a clear and accurate analysis of the issues;
  - d. Assessing the application against the Council's Development Plan policies and all other material considerations;



- e. Giving a clear recommendation;
- f. Carrying out the decisions of Councillors in Committee or Council.

#### **4. Lobbying**

- 4.1 It is quite common for applicants or other interested parties to wish to discuss a proposed development with Councillors before a planning application is determined.
- 4.2 This can help Councillors' understanding of the issues and concerns associated with an application. However, to avoid compromising their position before they have received all the relevant information, Planning Committee Members will:
  - a. Avoid as far as possible meeting an applicant or potential applicant alone;
  - b. Avoid making it known whether they support or oppose the proposal;
  - c. Restrict their response to giving Procedure advice;
  - d. Not pressurise officers to make a particular recommendation in their report;
  - e. Direct lobbyists or objectors to planning officers who will include reference to their opinions where relevant in their report;
  - f. Advise the Head of Planning & City Regeneration or the Cabinet Member of the existence of any lobbying.
- 4.3 Where a Councillor feels that his/her impartiality has been compromised he/she will need to decide whether to declare a personal interest and withdraw from the decision making process.
- 4.4 Membership of a Community / Town Council which has expressed a view on an application does not by itself give rise to a conflict provided that the Member retains an open mind. The Council's Monitoring Officer will give advice on whether an interest should be declared in cases of doubt.

#### **5. Discussions with potential applicants**

- 5.1 Pre-application meetings with potential applicants are encouraged, but to avoid them being misunderstood they will normally be at officer level and:
  - a. Where they involve Planning Committee Members they will be at a forum prescribed for the purpose;
  - b. Potentially contentious meetings will be attended by at least two officers including the Head of Planning & City Regeneration or his representative;
  - c. A note of the discussion will be taken and placed on file and made available for public inspection at the appropriate time;
  - d. It will be made clear at such meetings that only personal and provisional views based upon the Development Plan can be given and no decisions can be made which would bind or otherwise compromise the Planning Committee or Council.

## **6. Decisions contrary to officer recommendation**

- 6.1 From time to time Members of the Planning Committees or Council will disagree with the professional advice given by the Head of Planning & City Regeneration.
- 6.2 In such cases the reasons for rejecting an Officer's recommendation will be clearly stated and recorded in the minutes of the meeting. Where an appeal arises against such a decision, Officers will give support to the relevant members in preparing evidence for the appeal.

## **7. Site Visits**

- 7.1 Site visits can be useful to identify features of a proposal which may be difficult to convey in a written report, but site visits do delay the decision on an application.
- 7.2 When appropriate, however, they will be normally requested by a ward member at the time of calling an application to Committee; or
- 7.3 Be authorised by the relevant Committee or by the of Planning & City Regeneration, or his representative, in consultation with the Chair of the relevant Committee;
- 7.4 Normally, the site visits will be held between the publication of the Committee Agenda and the Committee meeting.

## **8. Planning Applications by Councillors or Officers of the Council**

- 8.1 When an application is submitted by anyone involved in the planning process, the Member or officer will:
  - a. Inform both the Head of Planning & City Regeneration and the Council's Monitoring Officer;
  - b. Take no part in processing or determining the application.
- 8.2 The Head of Planning & City Regeneration will ensure that all such applications are determined at the Committee meeting and not under delegated powers.

## **9. Planning applications by the Council**

- 9.1 The Council itself requires planning permission to carry out or authorise development on land it owns. These applications will be treated in the same way as those from private applicants.

## **10. Complaints**

- 10.1 Any issues or concerns arising from the Code of Practice can be raised with the relevant Cabinet Member with responsibility for Planning, the Corporate Director (Place), or the Head of Planning & City Regeneration.
- 10.2 The Council also have a formal complaints system in operation which can be used if necessary and accessed via the following link:  
<http://www.swansea.gov.uk/article/7326/Corporate-complaints-procedure>
- 10.3 The Council's Complaints Team can be contacted on 01792 63 7345.
- 10.4 Issues of maladministration can be referred to the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales who can be contacted at:
- 1 Ffordd yr Hen Gae, Pencoed, CF35 5LJ
  - 0300 790 0203
  - [ask@ombudsman-wales.org.uk](mailto:ask@ombudsman-wales.org.uk)
  - [www.ombudsman-wales.org.uk](http://www.ombudsman-wales.org.uk)

# Planning Applications

## Having your say at Swansea Council's Planning Committee

Listening to the people's views is an important part of City & County of Swansea Council's work. The Planning Committee welcome statements and petitions from local people about planning applications that affect them.

The Planning Committee decide the larger, complex or more controversial planning applications in the City.

The Committee meetings usually take place on Tuesdays at 2.00pm (but please check beforehand as occasionally times will vary) in the Council Chamber, Guildhall, Swansea, SA1 4PE and are open to the public.

**The public have a right to attend the meeting and may make a statement to the Committee (subject to advance notice being given) if they so wish.**

- **Who can speak**
- **Registering your request to speak**
- **What you can say to the Committee**
- **What happens at the meeting**

### Who Can Speak

If you wish to speak directly to the Planning Committee you should be:

- Someone who lives in Swansea and/or
- Someone who has a genuine interest in expressing a view on development control matters for example someone who:
  - (i) Is an applicant (or applicant's agent) for planning permission
  - (ii) Is an individual objector/supporter of a planning application
  - (iii) Represents a group of objectors/supporters of a planning application.

### Registering your request to speak

If you are thinking of speaking, please contact us as soon as possible. You can write, email or fax us and you **must**:

- Send your request to speak by **no later than 12.00 noon on the working day before the meeting, clearly indicating the item number or application number on which you wish to speak.**
- Give your name and address which will be publicly available unless there are particular reasons for confidentiality.

Contact details can be found at the end of this leaflet.

### What can I say to the Committee?

Under planning law, we can only take into account comments on planning issues. For example, these include loss of light or privacy, highway safety, traffic and parking issues, noise, amenity, pollution, conservation, wildlife, design and appearance of the development.

Issues which cannot be taking into account include loss of view, effect

### What happens at the meeting? (continued)

The Chair will then ask the Planning Officer to introduce the application and respond to any points raised. The Committee will then discuss the application and make a decision.

At the meeting you should not interrupt another speaker or the Committee debate.

on property values, private rights, covenants and construction noise and boundary disputes.

Swansea Council has also to take into account Welsh Assembly Government policies and guidance, together with its own planning policies and you may wish to refer to these as well.

You should not make statements that are personal, slanderous or abusive.

Keep your address short.

### **What happens at the meeting?**

Statements are heard prior to the relevant item.

Immediately before the item is to be considered, the Chair will call you to speak to the Committee.

However, the Council Constitution provides for a total time of ten minutes for representations (a maximum of 5 minutes each for objectors and applicants and supporters). So if there is more than one person wishing to address the Committee, either as an objector or applicant or supporter, you are advised to discuss the presentation before hand, perhaps nominating one person to make the statement, to ensure that the five minute limit is not exceeded.

The Committee Chair always has discretion as to whether or not a person speaks and has discretion to allow longer speaking times if appropriate.

Late requests to speak will not normally be accepted, although, in exceptional circumstances, they may be taken with the specific agreement of the Chair and Committee.

Should objectors/applicants wish to submit photographs/images for display at Committee, this has to be done by Noon the previous working day.

Any materials/literature objectors/applicants may wish to distribute to Councillors, they must do this themselves.

If a matter is deferred/withdrawn/deferred for site visit you will not be able to speak until it comes back to Committee.

### **After the meeting**

A letter will be sent to you notifying you of the decision made on that application.

### **Contact details**

If you wish to make a statement or present a petition, please address it to:

**Democratic Services** - Tel: 01792 636923

and send it either

**By post:** Democratic Services, Swansea Council, Room 216 Guildhall, Swansea, SA1 4PE

**By email:** [democracy@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:democracy@swansea.gov.uk)

If you have any questions about the procedures above or would like a copy of the full scheme please contact the Democratic Services Team.

### **Translation/Special Requirements**

If you would like this information in a different format, for example in Welsh, large print, computer disc or community languages, please contact: Planning Services, City & County of Swansea, Oystermouth Road, Swansea, SA1 3SN.

## **Title of Lord Mayor or Deputy Lord Mayor in Councillors Correspondence**

### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 This protocol provides Councillors with guidance on the Use of the Title Lord Mayor or Deputy Lord Mayor in Councillors Correspondence. A breach of this protocol is deemed a breach of the Members Code of Conduct. As such should a breach occur then it should be reported to the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales.

### **2. Personal Motto and / or Civic Crest**

- 2.1 The use of a Personal Motto or an attempt to use or amend the Civic Crest by the Lord Mayor, Deputy Lord Mayor or any Councillor in correspondence shall not be allowed.

### **3 Use of the Title Lord Mayor or Deputy Lord Mayor**

- 3.1 The use of the Title Lord Mayor or Deputy Lord Mayor in personal correspondence shall not be allowed.

## **Access to Political Group Rooms and Other Councillor Areas by Members of the Public**

### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 This protocol provides Councillors with guidance on access to Political Group Rooms and other Councillor areas by members of the public. A breach of this protocol is deemed a breach of the Members Code of Conduct. As such should a breach occur then it should be reported to the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales.
- 1.2 Whilst access to rooms is outlined below, Members of the public should not be allowed to use the Council's ICT equipment or any other facility prohibited by other Council protocols. Use of Council telephones in Councillor Areas may be allowed but only with the prior consent of the Councillor. Such use must be modest, necessary and appropriate.

### **2. Access to the Political Group Rooms & Other Councillor Rooms by Members of the Public**

- 2.1 Political Group Leaders / Deputy Group Leaders shall have the responsibility for deciding whether or not members of the public should be allowed to remain unattended in their Political Group Rooms.
- 2.2 Political Group Leaders / Deputy Group Leaders are advised to consider whether or not the member of the public has a legitimate reason for being invited in the Political Group Room.
- 2.3 The relevant Political Group Leader / Deputy Group Leader shall have the responsibility of policing their own Political Group Rooms.

## **Councillors Correspondence**

### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 This protocol provides Councillors with guidance on Use of Political Party / Political Group Logo, Personal Imagery and/or Colour in Councillors Correspondence.
- 1.2 Councillors must not use Council facilities and resources including letterheads and other correspondence to promote their Political Group / Political Party purposes.
- 1.3 A breach of this protocol is deemed a breach of the Members Code of Conduct. Any such breach may be reported to the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales.

### **2. Councillors Political Party / Political Group Names / Colours / Logos and / or Personal Imagery**

- 2.1 The Council shall not print or allow its equipment / facilities to be used to print (or publish) correspondence for Councillors containing their Political Party / Political Group Names / Colours / Logos and / or Personal imagery.

### **3. Councillors Surgery Posters**

- 3.1 Councillors Surgery Posters printed by the Council shall be allowed providing they are either printed using the corporate colours or in black and white.
- 3.2 A colour image of the Councillor shall be allowed for Councillor Surgery Posters; however the Political Group / Party Name / Logo shall not be permitted.



## **Response to Councillor Correspondence Protocol**

### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The “Customer Service - Guidelines for Staff” booklet outlines the Customer Request Response Guidelines. These guidelines do not differentiate between members of the public and Councillors. This Protocol makes a differentiation between Councillors and the public.

### **2. Service Requests**

- 2.1 On occasion it is likely that a Councillor will approach an Officer directly in order to request a service (e.g. reporting a faulty street light, requesting an appointment etc.). In such occasions this Protocol does not apply. The Officer will simply pass the Service Request to the relevant section and they will be dealt with in the normal way.

### **3. Councillor Request Response Guidelines**

- 3.1 All requests, where possible (and unless legislation allows otherwise e.g. FOIA gives 20 working days), shall be responded to within 5 clear working days of receipt.
- 3.2 If the response can be produced within 5 clear working days, no acknowledgement of receipt of the request is necessary.
- 3.3 Where this is not possible (e.g. due to complexity), an acknowledgment shall be sent within the 5 clear working days. The acknowledgment can be by written letter or e-mail and must contain the reason for the delay and a realistic timescale as to when the response will be made.
- 3.4 These guidelines apply equally to all forms of correspondence (written or verbal) including those received in the Welsh Language.



## Report of the Head of Democratic Services

Democratic Services Committee - 16 April 2018

### Webcasting & eVoting - Update

<b>Purpose:</b>	To provide an update on progress with the implementation of Webcasting and eVoting.
<b>Policy Framework:</b>	None.
<b>Consultation:</b>	Access to Services, Finance, Legal.
<b>For Information Only</b>	
<b>Report Author:</b>	Huw Evans
<b>Finance Officer:</b>	Ben Smith
<b>Legal Officer:</b>	Tracey Meredith
<b>Access to Services Officer:</b>	Sherill Hopkins

#### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The “City and County of Swansea - Policy Commitments Statement” report was adopted by Council at its meeting on 27 July 2017. The “Standing Up for Council Democracy” section of that report contains a paragraph on webcasting. The relevant part of that paragraph is replicated below:

*“Swansea Council will introduce web broadcasting of key Council meetings, and introduce electronic voting. It will publish a full list of elected member votes and decisions and make this freely available online.”*

- 1.2 “The First 100 Days and Beyond” report was submitted for information to Council on 28 September 2017. The “Council Democracy” section of that report referred to webcasting and eVoting. The relevant paragraph is replicated below:

*“Web broadcasting of key Council meetings and electronic voting. The requirement has been scoped and meetings are scheduled with suppliers to agree costs and implementation plan.”*

- 1.3 The Leader of the Council has worked closely with the Head of Democratic Services in progressing Webcasting and eVoting.

- 1.4 This report sets out the progress to date for the implementation of Webcasting and eVoting.

## **2. Webcasting**

- 2.1 In October / November 2013, the Authority trialled webcasting by webcasting two meetings of Council and two meetings of Cabinet. Following this successful trial, the Authority sought quotations for Webcasting from the Council Chamber, Civic Centre; however, these were ultimately shelved with the Council Chamber, Guildhall becoming the preferred venue for Council meetings.
- 2.2 On 12 December 2017, the Authority sought quotations via the National Procurement Website "Sell2Wales" for the "Supply, Installation and Maintenance for a Webcasting solution from the Council Chamber, Guildhall" with a closing date of 31 January 2018.
- 2.3 Three quotations were received and the tender was awarded to Civico on 9 April 2018. The contract is for one year with the option to extend for up to a further 60 months.
- 2.4 Discussions are ongoing on a Webcasting go live date but it is likely to be during the summer of 2018.
- 2.5 The Welsh Government is currently working on a Democracy Act and it is widely expected that it will legislate all Councils to webcast certain meetings. As such, the Authorities current work is likely to comply with that future requirement and also allows the Authority to be more open and transparent with regards its decision making process.

## **3. eVoting**

- 3.1 The Authority's delegate mic system within the Council Chamber, Guildhall includes the capability to conduct eVoting. This was part of the refurbishment of the Council Chamber, Guildhall cost.
- 3.2 The Leader of the Council and Head of Democratic Services anticipate that the eVoting system will be trialled shortly for Cabinet meetings and then rolled out further for Planning Committee a little later, other Committees and ultimately Council.
- 3.3 Council Procedure Rule 30 "Voting" has been amended in readiness for this roll out of eVoting and the relevant sections are outlined below:

*"30.1 Every question shall be determined by a show of hands unless there is an Electronic Voting system available, in which case that system shall be used."*

*30.2 On the requisition of any Member supported by ten other Members who promptly and together signify their support by rising in their places, the voting on any question shall be recorded in the minutes to show how each Member present and voting gave their vote or abstained as the case may be.*

30.5 All results of e-votes taken at Council and any other Council Bodies will be published online but not as part of the minutes.”

- 3.4 Further discussions will be needed in order to establish what will be displayed on the screen following each vote at a meeting. It may simply be the result showing the numbers of those that voted “For”, “Against” and “Abstained” or it may show how each individual Councillor and Co-opted Member voted. The latter is a little trickier to deliver for Council as the size of the writing may be too small to view.
- 3.5 The minutes of the meeting will only include how those eligible to vote, voted if a named vote was called as outlined in Council Procedure Rule 30.2. However, the breakdown of how each individual voted, will be published online in line with the “City and County of Swansea - Policy Commitments Statement” report adopted by Council on 27 July 2017.

#### **4. Equality and Engagement Implications**

- 4.1 There are no equality or engagement implications associated with this report.

#### **5. Financial Implications**

- 5.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report. All spend relating to Webcasting has come via a Welsh Government grant of £40,000.

#### **6. Legal Implications**

- 6.1 There are no specific legal implications associated with this report.

**Background Papers:** None.

**Appendices:** None.