



Report of the Head of Democratic Services

Democratic Services Committee – 31 July 2023

Democratic Services Committee Annual Report 2022-2023

Purpose:	To provide the Democratic Services Committee with the Annual Report for the Municipal Year 2022-2023. The report outlines the work of the Committee during that period.
Policy Framework:	None.
Consultation:	Access to Services, Finance, Legal.
Recommendation(s):	It is recommended that: 1) The Democratic Services Annual Report be approved and forwarded to Council for information.
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Finance Officer:	Jeff Dong
Legal Officer:	Debbie Smith
Access to Services Officer:	Rhian Millar

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 requires each Principal Council to establish a Democratic Services Committee. The Annual Meeting of Council held on 24 May 2012 originally established the Democratic Services Committee.
- 1.2 Council elected Councillor Lynda James as Chair of the Democratic Services on 2 July 2020 and at the Annual Meeting of Council on 20 May 2021.
- 1.3 The Democratic Services Committee is serviced by the Head of Democratic Services, Huw Evans.

1.4 The Democratic Services Annual Report is attached at Appendix A – Democratic Services Annual Report 2022-2023.

2. Format of Annual Report

2.1 Councillors are asked to comment on the style and format of the Annual Report informally to the Head of Democratic Services, as he is keen to ensure that it continues to be an informative, easy to read report.

3. Integrated Assessment Implications

3.1 The Council is subject to the Equality Act (Public Sector Equality Duty and the socio-economic duty), the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure, and must in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Acts.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socio-economic disadvantage
- Consider opportunities for people to use the Welsh language
- Treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English.
- Ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

3.2 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2005 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the 'well-being goals'.

3.3 Our Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process ensures we have paid due regard to the above. It also takes into account other key issues and priorities, such as poverty and social exclusion, community cohesion, carers, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Welsh language.

3.4 An IIA screening has been undertaken. There are no integrated assessment implications associated with this report.

4. Financial Implications

4.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

5. Legal Implications

5.1 There are no legal implications other than those set out in the body of the reports.

Background Papers: None.

Appendices:

Appendix A - Democratic Services Committee Annual Report 2022-2023