

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

County Council – 30 July 2020

REPORT BY: Head of Legal and Democratic Services
SUBJECT: Recommendations from the Democratic Services Committee

REPORT FOR: Decision

1. Review of trial of a “Formal Questions at Any Other Time” process

- 1.1 The Democratic Services Committee [DSC] considered the attached review report of the trial at its meeting on 18 March 2020.
- 1.2 The DSC noted the views from some Members who had submitted questions and from the Portfolio Holders and officers that answered questions. The DSC debated whether questions, including urgent questions should continue at Full Council meetings. Concerns were raised that having different processes in which to ask questions could be confusing for Members and the public. However, it was considered that retaining questions at Full Council meetings was part of the democratic process. Comment was made that continuation of “Formal Questions at any time” may over time lead to a reduction in questions to Full Council and this could be reviewed again.
- 1.3 Council at its meeting on 10 October 2019, agreed that a trial of the “Formal Questions at any other time” should be undertaken for three months and it provided the DSC Chair with delegated powers to extend the trial period, after consultation with the Committee.
- 1.4 The DSC Chair used this delegated power to enable the DSC to complete the review and extended the trial to the Annual meeting scheduled for 14 May, 2020. Due to the postponement of the Annual meeting, Councillors were advised by email on 12 May 2020 that the DSC Chair had used the delegated powers again to extend the time period of the trial further, from the 14th May to the next Annual meeting or to a Council meeting if one is held sooner.

RECOMMENDATION TO FULL COUNCIL THAT	Reason for recommendation
1. “Formal Questions at Any Time” to Portfolio Holders and Heads of Service be adopted, with Questions at Full Council remaining 2. the Constitution be amended as set out in Appendix 3 of the report and 3. there should be a further review in 12 months' time.	To incorporate “Formal questions at any time” into the Constitution.

Contact Officer:	Wyn Richards, Scrutiny Manager and Head of Democratic Services.
Tel:	01597-826375
Email:	wyn.richards@powys.gov.uk