

# CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

County Council – 26 November 2020

**REPORT BY:** Head of Legal and Democratic Services  
**SUBJECT:** Recommendations from the Democratic Services Committee 19 October 2020

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**REPORT FOR:** Decision

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## 1. Speaking at Council Meetings.

- 1.1 This issue had previously been considered by the Committee and changes recommended which had been approved by Council. However, the agreed changes to the Constitution had not been implemented. The Committee therefore reconsidered the issues.
- 1.2 The Committee debated the issue of Council agendas, nominated speakers, management of meetings and amendments to motions. The Committee recommended that a trial be undertaken of changes to the process for amendments and a trial of nominated speakers at Council meetings. If Council agrees to the proposed change to receive amendments to motions three days prior to a meeting, the Political Groups would need to ensure that their meetings are scheduled to enable them to consider the submission of amendments within the required timescale.

| <b>Recommendation to Council</b>  | <b>Reason for recommendation</b>                                   |
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| <p>(i) to reduce the speaking time for proposers and seconders of motions from 10 minutes and 5 minutes to 5 minutes and 2 minutes respectively and</p> <p>(ii) that amendments to motions should be submitted three days prior to a meeting rather than 5pm the day before the meeting<br/>and that these changes be trialled at three Council meetings [excluding the annual meeting].</p> <p>(iii) that a trial of nominated speakers on behalf of political groups be undertaken at 3 Full Council meetings, followed by a review of the trial by the</p> | <p>To review the process for debates at Full Council meetings.</p> |

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| <b>Democratic Services Committee.</b> |  |
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## **2. Amendments to the Constitution**

2.1 The Committee considered the proposed amendments to the Constitution. **(Appendices 1 and 2)**

| <b>Recommendation to Council</b>  | <b>Reason for recommendation</b>                           |
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| <b>That the amendments to Parts 4, and 7 of the Constitution be approved.</b> | <b>To review and update the Constitution as necessary.</b> |

## **3. Welsh Language Forum**

3.1 The Committee considered the report on the establishment of a Welsh Language Forum. **(Appendix 3)**

| <b>Recommendation to the County Council:</b>  | <b>Reason for Recommendation:</b>  |
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| <p>(i) That a new cross cutting Panel to promote the Welsh Language and provide oversight for Welsh Language provision within the Council be approved.</p> <p>(ii) That the membership of the Panel as set out in the report be approved with the addition of an officer with equalities knowledge.</p> | <b>To establish a new Panel to promote the Welsh Language and provide oversight for Welsh Language provision within the Council.</b> |

## **4 Scrutiny Improvement**

4.1 The continued improvement of scrutiny in Powys had been discussed with Group Leaders. The Welsh Local Government Association [WLGA] would provide the mentoring /coaching at no cost.

| <b>Recommendation to the County Council:</b>   | <b>Reason for recommendation</b>                         |
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| <p>(i) That to continue the improvement of scrutiny in Powys that the following proposals be approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mentoring and coaching for Chairs of scrutiny initially and extended to Vice-Chairs at a later time</li> </ul> | <b>To continue the improvement of scrutiny in Powys.</b> |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>reviews of the Committee's operation with Chairs</b></li><li>• <b>Reviews of members of Committees</b></li></ul> <p><b>(ii) That a mentoring / coaching and review scheme be established and implemented as set out in Appendix 4.</b></p> |  |
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