

DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE – FUNCTION

The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 requires each Principal Council to establish a Democratic Services Committee.

Sections 8 to 21 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure specifically relate to the provision of Democratic Services. Specifically further to section 11 the Committee is to :

- review the adequacy of provision by the authority of staff, accommodation and other resources to discharge democratic services functions, and
- make reports and recommendations to the authority in relation to such
- provision.

The Council at its meeting held on the 17TH April 2013 agreed to a recommendation of the Democratic Services Committee to include the following additional responsibilities within Committee's functions/terms of reference:-

- To secure the provision of reasonable training and development opportunities for Councillors and prepare reports and recommendations to Council in relation to such provision;
- To appoint the Council's Member Development Champion;
- To be consulted on the implementation of reports issued by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales in respect of members allowances etc.
- To promote and support good governance by the Council

It is for a Democratic Services Committee to determine how to exercise these democratic functions.

The Local Government (Democracy)(Wales) Act 2013 added section 11A which provides that the Democratic Services Committee may, at the request of the authority, review any matter relevant to :

- (a) the support and advice available to members of that authority, and
- (b) the terms and conditions of office of those members.

The committee must make reports and recommendations to the authority following a review; and again, it is for a democratic services committee to determine how to exercise its functions under this section.