

PWYLLGOR GWASANAETHAU DEMOCRATAIDD
5^{ED} RHAGFYR 2023

POLISI CYFARFODYDD AML-LEOLIAD

YR ARGYMHELLION/PENDERFYNIADAU ALLWEDDOL SYDD EU HANGEN:

Ystyried y polisi presennol, gwneud unrhyw awgrymiadau ar gyfer gwella ac argymell unrhyw newidiadau arfaethedig i'r Cyngor.

Y RHESYMAU:

Adolygu a sicrhau bod y polisi cyfarfodydd Aml-leoliad yn briodol.

Angen i'r Cabinet wneud penderfyniad

NAC OES

Angen i'r Cyngor wneud penderfyniad

OES

Yr Aelod o'r Cabinet sy'n Gyfrifol am y Portffolio:- Cyng. Linda Evans – Dirprwy Arweinydd

Arall:- Cyng. Michael Cranham – Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Gwasanaethau Democrataidd

Y Gyfarwyddiaeth

Y Prif Weithredwr

Enw Pennaeth y Gwasanaeth:

Linda Rees-Jones

Awdur yr Adroddiad:

Gaynor Morgan

Swyddi:

Pennaeth Gweinyddiaeth a'r Gyfraith

Pennaeth y Gwasanaethau Democrataidd

Rhifau ffôn / Cyfeiriadau e-bost:

01267 224012 /
Lrjones@sirgar.gov.uk

01267 224026 /
gmorgan@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE

MULTI-LOCATION MEETING POLICY

With the implementation of “The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 the Welsh Government has provided Councils the power and freedom to convene multi-location meetings which will enable greater accessibility and public participation in local government decision making.

Meetings must be capable of being held virtually, but each authority can decide whether their meetings will be held fully virtually or multi-location (where some participants are in the same physical location, whilst others join the meeting virtually, also referred to as ‘hybrid meetings’). Authorities cannot hold purely physical meetings (apart from the Dyfed Powys Police & Crime Panel which is subject to separate regulation).

The Authority’s Multi location meeting policy was approved by Council on the 12th October 2022 (Minute 4.1 refers) and took into account the interim statutory guidance issued by Welsh Government. Welsh Government published the final guidance on the 7th July 2023 and it is now an appropriate time to review the policy based on our experience of multi-location meetings to-date.

Proposed amendments to the policy, as highlighted in red, include greater guidance on the use of cameras. Some members have not responded when called to speak by the Chair, therefore greater emphasis has been placed on the requirement for members to remain in the meeting throughout debates and during voting, this is particularly important in order to maintain the integrity of the decision-making process and to reduce the opportunity for legal challenge of any decision. Members who need to leave the meeting early or temporarily (i.e. to take a phone call) should notify the Democratic Services Officer that they are no longer present.

**DETAILED REPORT
ATTACHED?**

YES.

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report :

Signed: Linda Rees Jones, Head of Administration & Law

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities NONE	Legal YES	Finance NONE	ICT NONE	Risk Management Issues NONE	Staffing Implications NONE	Physical Assets NONE
--	---------------------	------------------------	--------------------	---------------------------------------	--------------------------------------	--------------------------------

Legal

This Policy has been drafted having regard to the provisions of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 and the Welsh Government Statutory and Non Statutory Guidance on democracy within principal councils and particularly guidance on multi-location meetings.

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Signed: Linda Rees Jones, Head of Administration & Law

- 1.Scrutiny Committee** Not applicable
- 2.Local Member(s)** Not applicable
- 3.Community / Town Council** Not applicable
- 4.Relevant Partners** Not applicable
- 5.Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations** Not applicable

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Canllawiau Llywodraeth Cymru		https://www.llyw.cymru/sites/default/files/pdf-versions/2023/8/1/1692615160/statutory-and-non-statutory-guidance-democracy-within-principal-councils-contents.pdf
WG Guidance		https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/pdf-versions/2023/8/1/1691417050/statutory-and-non-statutory-guidance-democracy-within-principal-councils-contents.pdf
Council Constitution		https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-democracy/the-council/councils-constitution/