

Democratic Services Committee

(Multi-Location Meeting - Council Chamber, Port Talbot & Microsoft Teams)

Members Present:

3 October 2022

Chairperson: Councillor S.Rahaman

Vice Chairperson: Councillor N.Goldup-John

Councillors: W.Carpenter, J.Hale, M.Harvey, J.Henton, A.R.Lockyer, P.A.Rees and P.Rogers

Officers In Attendance C.Griffiths, S.Curran, C.John and A.Thomas

1. **Chair's Announcements**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest declared.

3. **Role and Functions of the Democratic Services Committee**

Members were presented with information relating to the functions of the committee, as presented in the report circulated.

Resolved: That the Democratic Services Committee note the information in relation to its functions and responsibilities.

4. **Multi-location Meeting Policy**

Members were presented with a draft copy of the Multi-location Meeting Policy, as detailed in the report circulated.

Members queried the requirement for cameras to be switched on when speaking remotely. Officers advised that the requirement to be 'seen and heard' was part of the current legislation relating to hybrid working.

Resolved: To note the provisions of the draft Multi-Location Meetings Policy set out in Appendix A and provide comments as appropriate.

To delegate authority to the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, in consultation with the Chair, to prepare and submit a final version of the Multi Locations Meeting Policy to Council for ratification.

5. **Councillor Safety & Wellbeing**

Members were presented with information relating to Councillor Safety & Wellbeing as detailed in the report circulated.

Members were advised that the WLGA are setting up working groups to assist with the development of the programme 'debate not hate,' which is building on the civility in public life campaign.

Members will be kept up to date with any further information that is brought forward.

Resolved: That the Democratic Services Committee note the update in relation to Councillor Safety and Wellbeing and discuss whether there are any additional matters they would wish to seek further reports on.

6. **Forward Work Programme 22/23**

To note for information.

7. **Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items.

CHAIRPERSON