

# **NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

## **Democratic Services Committee**

**7<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

### **Report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services – Mr Craig Griffiths**

#### **Matter for Decision**

#### **Wards Affected:**

All wards

#### **Member Induction 2022 and Diversity in Democracy Programme**

#### **Purpose of the Report:**

1. To gain Member support for a Task and Finish Group to be established to contribute to Member Induction arrangements following the Local Government elections that will take place in 2022 and consideration of the Diversity in Democracy Programme of the Welsh Local Government Association (“WLGA”).

#### **Background:**

2. Local Government Elections will take place in May 2012 and it is important that prior to this, the Council’s reviews its Induction Programme that will take place following the election of new members to the Council to accurately reflect the concerns and views of members based on their induction experience when they were elected in 2017.
3. The Democratic Services Committee has within its remit the responsibility 'to review the adequacy of provision by the Council of staff, accommodation, and other resources to discharge

democratic services functions' and 'to make reports and recommendations to the Council in relation to such provision'.

4. Work is also being undertaken by the WLGA via their Member/Officer Networks to develop a 'typical induction curriculum' for use by Local Authorities.
5. The Democratic Services Committee are asked to agree that Member Induction 2022 be considered as one of their priority work areas leading up to 2022 and to agree that a 'Task and Finish' approach to the work be agreed so that members may contribute to the work that will be undertaken by officers. The 'Task and Finish' Group will report to the Democratic Services Committee and will meet throughout July, August and September 2021 with the aim of presenting a proposed approach to Member Induction 2022 in October 2021 to a special meeting of the Democratic Services Committee.
6. It would be of assistance if the Committee could provide any further suggestions to maximise the engagement of Members on this project.
7. At the meeting of Council of 26<sup>th</sup> May 2021, Council also commits to becoming a "Diverse Council" pursuant to the Welsh Local Government Association Diversity and Democracy Programme and that Democratic Services Committee be tasked to undertake a review of the Diversity in Democracy Programme as part of its review of the Member Induction Programme for 2022. As part of the Task and Finish Group, members will also be asked to consider the same and a report back to Democratic Services Committee for further consideration, before onward reporting to Full Council.

#### **Financial Impacts:**

8. The Task and Finish Group proposed can be supported within existing financial resources.

#### **Integrated Impact Assessment:**

9. There is no requirement for an Integrated Impact Assessment as this is a report in respect of governance arrangements only. A well

designed Member Induction programme would assist the Council in discharging its duties and responsibilities as set out in the Equalities Act 2010

**Valleys Communities Impacts:**

10. There are no valley community impacts

**Workforce Impacts:**

11. There are no workforce impacts associated with the proposed Task and Finish Group; however any workforce implications that arise from proposals made by the Group will need to be considered.

**Legal Impacts:**

12. This work is proposed to be undertaken in accordance with the function of the Democratic Services Committee as expressed in the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011.

**Risk Management Impacts:**

13. There are no risk management issues associated with this report.

**Consultation:**

14. There will be no requirement for any consultation.

**Recommendations:**

15. It is recommended that:

- (a) Members of the Democratic Services Committee agree that Member Induction 2022 be identified as a priority area of work for the Committee.
- (b) Members of the Democratic Services Committee establish a Task and Finish Group to meet during July, August and September 2021 with a view to contributing towards proposals for the shape and content of the Member Induction programme in 2022 and to consider the diversity in democracy programme.
- (c) That Members of the Democratic Services Committee agree to hold a special meeting of the Democratic Services Committee in October 2021 to consider the output of the Task and Finish Group work.

**Reasons for Proposed Decision:**

- 16. To ensure that Member Induction arrangements in 2022 are fit for purpose.

**Implementation of Decision:**

- 17. The decision is proposed for implementation immediately

**Appendices:**

- 18. None

**List of Background Papers:**

- 19. None

**Officer Contact:**

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