

SUBJECT:	Consultation Response extension of job share provisions for elected members of principal councils to non-executive roles
MEETING:	CABINET
DATE:	25 September 2024
DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED:	All

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To approve the Council's response to the Welsh Government's consultation on the extension of job share provisions for elected members of principal councils to non-executive roles.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Cabinet approve the consultation response at Appendix 2.

3. KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 introduced provisions that enabled two or more members to jointly share a Cabinet role.
- 3.2 It was introduced to support diversity in those standing for election and encourage more people to undertake senior positions in the Council by enabling them to balancing the work of being a member of Cabinet alongside other responsibilities.
- 3.3 Since the Local Government elections in May 2022 there have been two instances of job sharing within the executive, with the roles of Cabinet Member for Engagement and Equalities and Cabinet Member for Resources being shared during the current term.
- 3.4 Welsh Government have launched a consultation in relation to proposals to expand the current job sharing provisions. A copy of Welsh Government's consultation document is attached at Appendix 1 of this report. The proposals seek to extend the job sharing provisions beyond Cabinet to include the following non-executive roles, all of which are entitled to a senior responsibility allowance in accordance with the determination of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales:
 - chair of a council
 - vice-chair of a council
 - presiding member of a council
 - deputy presiding member of a council

- chair of a committee or sub-committee of a council
- vice-chair or deputy chair of a committee or sub-committee of a council
- deputy mayor in a mayor and cabinet executive

3.5 The consultation seeks responses to five specific questions and also provides an opportunity to add any additional comments in relation to relevant matters which are not specifically addressed.

3.6 A draft response has been prepared by the Head of Democratic Services and is attached at Appendix 2 of this report. The Council's constitution requires Cabinet to agree responses to consultations from Welsh Government.

3.7 If the attached consultation response is approved by Cabinet, it will be submitted by the Head of Democratic Services by the deadline of 4th October 2024.

4. EQUALITY AND FUTURE GENERATIONS EVALUATION (INCLUDES SOCIAL JUSTICE, SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING)

4.1 N/a

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1 n/a

6. CONSULTEES

Chief Officer, Law & Governance (Monitoring Officer)
Cabinet Member for Equalities

7. Background Papers

Appendix 1 – Welsh Government Consultation Document
Appendix 2 – Draft Consultation Response

8. AUTHOR

John Pearson, Local Democracy Manager

9. CONTACT DETAILS

E-mail: johnpearson@monmouthshire.gov.uk