

**MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
REPORT**

<p>SUBJECT: Elections 2022 MEETING: Democratic Services Committee DATE: 7th June 2021 DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: N/A</p>

1. PURPOSE:

To agree specific areas to bring to the committee in order to ensure necessary and targeted work is undertaken ahead of the 2022 local elections and for the induction of new councillors for the next term.

2. KEY ISSUES:

The 2022 local elections will be held on the 5th May 2022 and will elect 46 Councillors to Monmouthshire County Council, an additional three new members as a result of an electoral review carried out by the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission.

As part of the Diverse Council pledge, pre-election work will need to be conducted to encourage candidates to stand for election and make them aware of the expected duties and commitments of being a councillor.

All members who are elected to the Council will need to undertake an induction programme to bring them up to speed with how the Council operates immediately following the election to ensure Council business can commence as soon as practicable.

Various topics for the committee to consider over the next few meetings include:

- Council Diary 2021/22 to be presented at the next Democratic Services Meeting running to September 2022 with a draft schedule of dates for induction training included through May and June 2022.
- A schedule of induction sessions, their aims and objectives, along with a list of mandatory sessions and actions will be prepared for review along with a consideration of how these sessions can be delivered (in person/online)
- A list of pre-election activities and actions will be prepared for review to raise awareness of the election and promote candidates to stand for election.
- Members ICT Refresh – a review will be undertaken with all members to establish what their ICT needs are before presenting options to the committee based on those responses and suitability of equipment
- Members Welcome Pack – Review the induction pack from 2017, update with relevant information and identify extra information that would assist new members

- Members intranet area – Review the contents and usability of the members area on the intranet, can this be tailored in a way for new members to have access to key information, what key information would they need etc?
- E-Learning – A review of the current capabilities to embed e-learning into our practices and support for members. Work currently being undertaken nationally on this through the All Wales Academy but currently its difficult to navigate and not user friendly.
- Mentoring/Shadowing – Opportunites for new members to be mentored by experienced councillors. How would this work in practice? What if those who are trained as mentors are not re-elected?

Members are invited to suggest any other topics for consideration as part of the induction and pre-election preparations that need to be considered for new members in 2022.

3. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

None

4. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS:

The work will ensure that newly elected member have the skills and knowledge to be able to undertake their work as a councillor quickly and effectively following the election and that anyone who wishes to stand for election has the opportunity to do so.

5. SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS:

Safeguarding and Corporate Parenting training sessions will be built in to the induction programme for Councillors to make them aware of their responsibilities in their role.

6. AUTHOR:

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