

**MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
REPORT**

<p>SUBJECT: Induction and Election Update MEETING: Democratic Services Committee DATE: 6 September 2021 DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: All</p>
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1. PURPOSE:

To receive an update on progress regarding preparations for the local elections in 2022 and the induction programme for new Councillors.

2. KEY ISSUES:

The local elections will be held in May 2022 with elections being held to the County Council and Community/Town Councils in Monmouthshire.

Members received at the previous meeting of the Democratic Services Committee a draft induction timetable. Whilst there were still concerns regarding the intensity of the induction programme, particularly for new members, it was agreed that on the whole the induction timetable looked suitable and will be discussed between officers, the chair and vice chair of the committee. At the November meeting of the committee, members will receive a full induction programme and draft council diary for 2022/23 for consideration. This will be a finalised timetable of induction events and committee meetings in preparation of sharing this information with prospective candidates.

To support the sharing of information at the election and carry out our commitment to encouraging diverse candidates to come forward, we have prepared a website for prospective candidates that provides information not only on the election process but also the induction programme, expectations of them as a councillor and support they can expect to receive. Boundary maps of all the new County and Community/Town Council wards are also included on the website. We welcome feedback from the committee on the website and any suggestion for improvements. The website is available here: mcc-elections-2022.webnode.co.uk

Further preparation for informing candidates will be put on hold in the short term as Welsh Government are currently consulting on new rules which will alter the way candidates get themselves nominated for election. Once these rules are clarified and in legislation, likely to be the end of November 2021, we will update resources and make them available to candidates. In person and/or remote information sessions for prospective candidates will also be scheduled once the legislation is confirmed.

3. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

None. Rules are currently out for consultation and full cost implications of the proposed changes would be considered at the time of implementation.

4. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS:

None.

5. SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS:

None.

6. AUTHOR:

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