

COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT

**REPORT TO: THE CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE
DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**SUBJECT: DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE –
11TH MARCH, 2024**

REPORT OF: DEMOCRATIC & COMMITTEE SUPPORT OFFICER

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR J. HILL (CHAIR)

Councillors E. Jones (Vice-Chair)
J. C. Morgan
D. Bevan
G. A. Davies
C. Smith
L. Winnett

ALSO: **Scrutiny Chairs & Vice-Chairs**

Chair of Corporate & Performance Scrutiny Committee
Councillor J. Wilkins

Chair of Partnerships Scrutiny Committee
Councillor W. Hodgins

Chair of People Scrutiny Committee
Councillor T. Smith

AND: Head of Democratic Services, Governance &
Partnerships (Statutory Head of Democratic Services)
Service Manager, Performance & Democratic

ITEM	SUBJECT	ACTION
No. 1	<u>SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION</u> It was noted that no requests had been received for the simultaneous translation service.	

<p>No. 2</p>	<p><u>APOLOGIES</u></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from:-</p> <p>Councillor L. Parsons Councillor M. Cross Councillor R. Leadbeater Councillor Jen Morgan</p>	
<p>No. 3</p>	<p><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS</u></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest or dispensations reported.</p>	
<p>No. 4</p>	<p><u>DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the decisions of the meeting held on 13th July, 2023.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED that the decisions be received as a true record of proceedings.</p>	
<p>No. 5</p>	<p><u>ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Statutory Head of Democratic Services.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED that the report be accepted and endorsed Option 1; namely that the Committee approved the report on the basis that it was satisfied there was a sufficient level of support for Elected Members before consideration by Council.</p>	
<p>No. 6</p>	<p><u>MULTI LOCATION MEETING POLICY AND COUNCIL CHAMBER OPTIONS MOVING FORWARD</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Service Manager Performance & Democratic.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED to recommend that the report be accepted; and endorsed the following Options:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Multi Location Meeting Policy (appendix 1) – Option 1a</u>; namely to recommend approval of the Multi Location Meeting Policy at Council and for it to be used to support all 	

future democratic meetings and member sessions; and

- **Establishment of a Working Group to consider Options for a Council Chamber – Option 2a**; that Democratic Services Committee recommend to Council to establish a Members Working Group to look at requirements, costs and potential alternative options for the provision of a Council Chamber and provide the findings back to Council for consideration.