

MEETING	Democratic Services Committee
DATE	26 October 2017
TITLE OF THE REPORT	Matters raised by members
PURPOSE	Submit matters regarding support for members which have been raised by members for the committee's attention.
RECOMMENDATION	To receive the Committee's observations
AUTHOR	Vera Jones Democratic Services Manager

1. At the meeting held on 11 July 2017, it was noted that the Committee had a role to assist the Head of Democratic Services when developing support for members and ensuring that sufficient staff and resources are provided to support members.
2. In considering support for members, some matters have arisen via various forums which are appropriate for the Democratic Services Committee to discuss in order to identify a possible way forward.
3. Meeting Venues. Comments have been received that the requirements to attend/travel to meetings (whether formal, informal or training) take up a lot of time and that there is a feeling that many of the meetings to date have been located in Caernarfon. While understanding that some meetings at the beginning of the Council term unavoidably had to be held in Caernarfon (e.g. two induction days), the comments received were about identifying other types of meetings for the future. Several suggestions were made about the way forward, including:
 - holding some meetings (where possible) in Penrhyndeudraeth
 - improve the use of video-conferencing and use it more frequently, particularly for informal meetings
 - holding training in an alternative way e.g. in the area forums, recording training so that members can watch the main parts, webinar training.
 - Improve the use of "Skype for business".
4. Contacting Departments, information and communication from Departments.
 - The aspect of contacting departments will be addressed in the "Personal Development Interviews" report, where it is suggested that a sub-group is established to ensure that the members' portal is current and easy to use for members.
 - Comments were received from some members who were unhappy that developments had happened in their wards and that there had been no contact with them as local members prior to the developments taking place. The committee's observations are requested.
5. Publishing Members' addresses on the website.
The recent serious case of the murder of the MP Jo Cox has brought the safety of anyone working in a capacity to assist the public to the forefront of all our minds. Personal safety is extremely important to all Council members, particularly when elected members assist vulnerable individuals in their community. Some members

have been in touch with a request that their personal addresses not to be published on the website. As it is possible for members of the public to contact their local members via a phone number or official 'councillor' e-mail address, the service has responded by not publishing members' addresses on the website if they do not wish for them to appear. It can be ensured that any written correspondence is forwarded to the specific group office or for the address to be removed entirely.

6. The Committee's observations on the above are invited.