



Date of meeting :	14 November 2023
Subject	Self-assessment - Supporting and Developing Members
Recommendation	Members of the Democracy Services Committee are asked for their observations on the response to the consultation and the next steps in Gwynedd.
Contact Officer:	Vera Jones, Democracy and Language Services Manager.

What is the background and relevant considerations?

1. It has always been essentially important to ensure support and development to Councillors in Cyngor Gwynedd, and we try to ensure that we continually aim towards the highest standards.
2. When aiming for the highest standards, we collaborate and compare with other authorities, and have benefited and learned from their experiences, and we continue to do so via the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA).
3. Nearly twenty years ago the WLGA developed the Wales Charter to Assist and Develop members, a charter that gave guidance and expectations on the most suitable support to Councillors. The charter has been adapted over the years, but recently a full review was undertaken by the WLGA, acknowledging that there is a need now for a different framework that reflects a more prominent method of improvement. At the same time, the framework needs to reflect the Welsh Government's latest legislation, statutory and other guidance and also acknowledge the increasing restricted resources available to councils.
4. The new offer moves from the more bureaucratic past requirements to submit evidence of achievement for each relevant field. Now, the voluntary self-assessment framework offers different fields that different Councils can concentrate on by self-evaluating their work and acknowledging risks and improvements that will make the biggest difference to the support for the Councillors from each individual Council.
5. The consultation document has been developed by the WLGA, with the opportunity to provide observations until the end of October, 2023. However, we have secured an opportunity to present additional observations if desired after the closing date.



CONTENTS OF THE DRAFT DOCUMENT

6. The draft document has been included in **Appendix A** and it can be seen that three main fields have received attention, which are democracy, the community and learning. On each field, there are specific questions that the Council can choose to respond to or aim to achieve.
7. There is a brief response to the consultation, that was provided by Gwynedd officers, included in **Appendix B** for your information. The committee is asked if there are any further comments on the response to the document.

FURTHER STEPS

8. As Cyngor Gwynedd take pride in trying to ensure that the correct development and support is presented to Councillors, we are very eager to plan to move this work forward following receiving the final Framework.
9. It is recommended that a small group of the Committee's members meet to assess the following within the final framework
 - Is the Council responsible for the field or not?
 - the Council's current performance against the framework's expectations
 - is it a priority from the Council?
 - are there any potential improvement steps?
10. The above steps can then lead to identifying a work programme of improvements that have been prioritised from the success criteria in the final document. As the final document has not been received, the committee is asked to establish the above principle for implementation. We will report back on the timetable and ask for volunteers in due course.

Recommendation

11. The Democracy Services Committee is asked to accept the report for information.