

CYNGOR GWYNEDD



Report to a meeting of the Democracy Services Committee

Date of Meeting: 12 November 2024

Title of Item: Update: Wales Councillor Support Self-Evaluation Framework

Contact Officer: Rhodri Jones, Democracy Services Officer

1. DECISION

The Democracy Services Committee is asked to consider the report, offer observations, and accept what is proposed.

2. What is the background and relevant considerations?

- 2.1 Local Authorities provide the support that all councillors need to fulfil their role. Ensuring support and development for Councillors is of key importance at Cyngor Gwynedd. To assist us in assessing our provision, we have chosen to use the Wales Councillor Support Self-Evaluation Framework provided by the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA).
- 2.2 Cyngor Gwynedd has historically followed the guidance of the WLGA by securing a Wales Charter assessment which assessed details of the support provided to councillors. A recent review of it highlighted the need to end the Charter, in order to establish a new framework that reflects a more progressive approach to assisting and supporting councillors.
- 2.3 This new Framework, the Wales Councillor Support Self-Evaluation Framework, is divided into three broad areas representing the different aspects of councillors' work and their responsibilities – Democracy, Community and Learning and Development.
- 2.4 The use of the Framework is entirely voluntary to ensure that the Council's arrangements for support for councillors are of the highest standard and fit for purpose.

2.5 The Framework will be reviewed periodically to ensure compliance with existing legislation.

3 Establishing the Framework in Gwynedd: Learning and Development

3.1 A hybrid meeting was held with representatives from the Democracy Services Committee on 19 September 2024 in order to share opinions, comments and ideas about the current Learning and Development provision.

3.2 The Framework suggests questions on a number of topics within the main fields, which can be seen in Appendix 1, to ensure that the provision for councillors is of a high quality. For the area of Learning and Development, the main fields include:

- Councillors' Development Strategy
- Personal Development reviews
- Learning and Development programme
- Induction Programme
- Quality of development
- Participation
- Learning from others

3.3 A detailed discussion of the topics noted in 3.2 took place, and the main findings can be found in Appendix 2.

4 Next Steps

4.1 Another meeting will be held to discuss Democracy matters. This will be an opportunity to share further comments and ideas on the provision of Democracy, Legal and Electoral support at Cyngor Gwynedd.

4.2 We hope to report on the comments from that meeting at the next meeting of the Democracy Services Committee, before discussing and detailing the Community provision and support that is available to Gwynedd councillors.

Appendix 1: Wales Councillor Support Self-Evaluation Framework

Appendix 2: A summary of discussions on support within the Learning and Development field