

<b>MEETING</b>	Democracy Services Committee
<b>DATE</b>	16 June 2026
<b>TITLE</b>	LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS MAY 2027
<b>PURPOSE</b>	Provide an update on the work being done to prepare for the 2027 Election
<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>	<b>To note and accept the report.</b>
<b>AUTHOR</b>	Annes Sion Democracy Team Leader

## FOREWORD

1. We are all aware that Local Government elections are being held in May 2027. As a result, there are considerable preparations to be made - by you as elected members, by the political groups, and by us as officers.
2. The work is already underway, with three main themes to consider. The identified themes are as follows:
  - Pre-election preparation (including promoting diversity in democracy)
  - Results / election day
  - Induction and the training programme
3. Preparation.  
Naturally, there are many sub-sections to each theme. The work programme for the preparation element includes:

Action	Details
Ensure comprehensive information for prospective applicants on the website	We will be building on the work done prior to the 2022 elections, updating the current information on the website and making it easier to find.
Promoting diversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We will proceed to create simple videos to explain the role of a councillor, encouraging diversity in democracy at the same time.</li> <li>• Sessions to be held before the election to explain the role of a member to anyone who is considering standing and give them an opportunity to ask any questions.</li> </ul>
Review the Members' Job Descriptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As minor amendments have been made to the job descriptions by the Welsh Local Government Association, we will revisit the job descriptions to ensure that they are up to date. They will be presented to you as members at the Full Council.</li> </ul>
Members' Intranet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Members' Intranet was developed before the 2022 election, and by now there is a need to revisit and further develop it to make it more useful to Elected Members.</li> </ul>

4. It was noted above that preparation was underway to promote diversity in democracy. A report and work programme are being submitted to the committee today to highlight that work. We will aim to submit it at the Full Council meeting in July.
5. Results / election day  
Considerable appreciation was shown to the work done for the 2022 elections, particularly the success in announcing the election results per ward as they were being declared. We will ensure that arrangements are in place for similar success in 2027.
6. Induction and the training programme.  
There are two main elements to induction work, namely the welcome day(s) and the training programme for the first year.
7. There was praise for the arrangements following the 2022 election, particularly the welcome days. However, it was noted at the time that there were lessons to be learnt. We have also received other comments over the years, which will help in drawing-up different and better arrangements for 2027. It is a very difficult balance to strike between providing the necessary information to empower every Member to undertake the role to the best of their ability and not drown Members with too much information at the same time.
8. The main actions for the elements of the work above include:

Action	Details
Welcome day / days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reflect on the lessons learnt from 2022.</li> <li>• Draw up a draft programme to respond to the improvements from 2022.</li> <li>• Ensure that priority is given to the matters requiring attention on welcome days, arranging further induction sessions in the period between May and July 2027.</li> </ul>
The first-year induction programme	Prioritise mandatory training, aiming to strike a balance between ensuring that members, particularly new members, are armed with the necessary information to fulfil the role, but that they are not drowned in excessive training and information.

9. Developments in line with the rough work programmes noted above are already underway with different teams of officers. Any comments on the work programme are welcomed.
10. Observations by Members.  
In order to ensure that we receive your opinion and input as Members to be a central part of the development work for the election, we have created a small group of Members to share their views. It is a cross-section of experienced members and others who have joined more

recently, and they offer comments on specific fields of discussion. The first meeting was held in April, with a monthly meeting programmed for the coming year.

The discussion group will look at matters such as:

- i. Members' Intranet and Communication
- ii. Information Technology
- iii. Training

11. As members of the Democracy Service Committee, you are also welcome to join if you wish.

We will update you on the preparation work through regular reports to this committee.

**12. DECISION SOUGHT**

**The Democracy Services Committee is asked to note and accept the report**