

MEETING	Democracy Services Committee
DATE	3 November 2026
TITLE	LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS MAY 2027
PURPOSE	To provide an update on the work being done to prepare for the 2027 Election
RECOMMENDATION	To note and accept the report.
AUTHOR	Annes Siôn 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, 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. A programme of work was presented to you as members at the last meeting and below is an update on the work that has been carried out on some of the actions.

Action	Details
Ensure comprehensive information for prospective candidates.	Work has begun to update the information on the website, and it is hoped that the information will be up to date by mid-November. In addition to the information on the website, we are creating a Handbook for Prospective Candidates containing useful information giving them a full picture of the role of a member. Some of the headings are as follows: • Role of a Councillor • How does the Council work? • Time Commitment and Salary • Values • Support for Councillors • A Day in the Life of a Councillor. We will be presenting this at the next meeting of the Councillors' Discussion Group: Election 2027.
Promoting diversity	Videos have been created by the Democracy Team to highlight the role of a Councillor and these will be posted on

Action	Details
	social media in early November. Thanks to the Elected Members who have volunteered to take part in the videos. An Elect Her Session will be held on XXXXXX which will be a specific session created to encourage women to stand for election. The session will be chaired by Catrin Thomas, Corporate Director and there will be contributions from the Group Leaders. As part of a wider programme to promote democracy, sessions will be held jointly by the Monitoring Officer and the Propriety Officer along with the Democracy Team to explain to anyone considering standing what a member's role is and to give them the opportunity to ask any questions. These will be held in early January.
Members' Intranet	Following discussions in the Councillors' Discussion Group: Election 2027, work is underway to reconsider the members' intranet to simplify it in the hope that it will be more useful and easier to use.

4. Results/election day

Considerable appreciation was shown for 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. Because of the current staff turnover within the democracy team, it will be necessary to create a training programme for new members of staff so that they understand the requirements and are confident to take action so that we can achieve similar success in 2027.

5. Induction and the training programme

There are two main elements to induction work, namely the welcome day and the training programme for the first year.

6. The main actions for the elements of the work above include:

Action	Details
Welcome day	We have reflected on how information was presented to Councillors during the Welcome Day in 2022. It was highlighted by several Councillors that a lot of information had been presented on the day, which was heavy and led to a tiring day. To respond to the comments, we intend to put together a Welcome Day which prioritises the following key points: • An outline of how the Council works • Code of Conduct • Support available to Councillors • Information Technology Provision.

Action	Details
	It was noted that many had benefited from meeting their fellow members and several key officers on the first day. It is our intention to invite all members (those who are new and returning) to a Welcome Day in Siambr Dafydd Orwig, holding it as a face-to-face event only. By ensuring that we do not overwhelm Councillors on the first day, we hope that we will be able to have brief and engaging sessions in order to share more of the information needed in the first two weeks. Topics such as: • What to expect at the first meeting of the Full Council (the annual meeting) • Virtual and Hybrid Meetings – practical tips on how to attend the meetings and share good practice In addition, it has come to our attention that the Members' Handbook presented to Councillors back in 2022 did not address all the needs and information required. As a result, work is being done to create a comprehensive booklet that will be of greater use.
The first-year induction programme	We have noted at the previous meeting that prioritising core training for Members to equip them with the knowledge necessary to fulfil the role is vitally important – a specific report about training has been submitted to the meeting. Please note that it is a difficult task to strike a balance between ensuring that members are presented with adequate information and ensuring that they are not overwhelmed by excessive information and training. Obviously, the balance must also be maintained with the committees to be held in the first period before the summer, bearing in mind that specific training must be presented for some committees, e.g. planning, licensing, scrutiny, etc. before a member can sit on the committee. The period before summer will be a very busy one as the same number of committees (if not more) need to be held within a shorter period of time than is available in a normal year. Work is being carried out in conjunction with the Learning and Development Service to map out the training that will be required for the first year.

7. Any comments on the work programme are welcomed.

8. Members' Comments

To ensure that we get your views and input as members to be central to the development work for the election, a small group of Members come together to share their views. It is a cross-section of experienced members and others who have joined more recently, and they offer observations on specific areas of discussion. The group has held several meetings and has discussed areas such as Members' IT Equipment, Members' Training and the Members' Intranet. The responses inform the work being done by the team on the work programme.

In the coming months we will be meeting to discuss areas such as:

- Information for Prospective Councillors
- Welcome Day/Induction Period/Councillors' Booklet
- Support during the first year.

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

We will update you on the preparatory work at the committee's February meeting.

10. DECISION SOUGHT

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