

# COUNTY COUNCIL

14<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2021

## DIVERSITY IN DEMOCRACY DECLARATION

### RECOMMENDATIONS / KEY DECISIONS REQUIRED:

1. that Carmarthenshire County Council commits to being a 'Diverse Council' and endorses the WLGA Council Diversity in Democracy declaration to :-
  - Provide a clear, public commitment to improving diversity;
  - Demonstrate an open and welcoming culture to all;
  - Consider staggering council meeting times and agreeing recess periods to support councillors with other commitments; and
  - Set out an action plan of activity ahead of the 2022 local elections.
2. that the Democratic Services Committee be tasked with developing an action plan ahead of the 2022 local government election.

### REASONS:

The Welsh Local Government Association Council has agreed that all Councils should commit to a declaration by July 2021 on becoming 'Diverse Councils' in 2022, to provide a clear, public commitment to improving diversity.

<b>Scrutiny Committee consulted</b>	<b>Not applicable</b>
<b>Exec Board Decision Required</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Council Decision Required</b>	<b>YES</b>

### EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:-

Cllr Emlyn Dole (Leader and WLGA Council representative);  
Cllr Ann Davies Executive Board Member for Equalities

Directorate	Chief Executive's	Tel Nos.
Name of Head of Service: Linda Rees Jones	Designations: Head of Administration & Law	01267 224012 LRJ 01267 224026 GM
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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## COUNTY COUNCIL

14<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2021

### DIVERSITY IN DEMOCRACY DECLARATION

The Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) Council which comprises members from the Principal Welsh Councils considered a report on the 5<sup>th</sup> March 2021 on Diversity in Democracy – see [link](#).

The WLGA Council as part of its debate unanimously agreed “to foster a culture where all councillors are encouraged and supported to claim any necessary allowances or expenses to which they are entitled, and we ask that you lead and encourage this culture locally.”

The WLGA Council also unanimously agreed that all councils should commit to a declaration by July 2021 on becoming ‘Diverse Councils’ in 2022, to provide a clear, public commitment to improving diversity” As part of its report the WLGA agreed an ‘outline’ Declaration to:

- Provide a clear, public commitment to improving diversity;
- Demonstrate an open and welcoming culture to all;
- Consider staggering council meeting times and agreeing recess periods to support councillors with other commitments; and
- Set out an action plan of activity ahead of the 2022 local elections

Once the Declaration is accepted, it is proposed that the Democratic Services Committee is tasked with developing an action plan ahead of the 2022 local government election

**DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?**

**Letter from WLGA dated 15<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

## IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report :

Signed: Linda Rees Jones, Head of Administration & Law

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>NOT AT THIS STAGE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NOT AT THIS STAGE</b>	<b>NONE</b>

### **Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities**

Carmarthenshire County Council is a listed public body under the Equality Act and holds additional responsibility to meet the Public Sector Equality Duty, as outlined below:

### **Public Sector Equality Duty**

#### **The General Duty**

When making decisions and delivering services, we must have due regard to:

- Eliminating discrimination, harassment, victimisation, and any other conduct that is prohibited under the Act
- Advancing equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it

Fostering good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

The WLGA will encourage all political parties, through the WLGA Political Groups, to commit to proactive and coordinated activities to improve diversity in local government democracy;

## CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Signed: Linda Rees Jones, Head of Administration & Law

**1.Scrutiny Committee** Not applicable

**2.Local Member(s)** Not applicable

**3.Community / Town Council** Not applicable

**4.Relevant Partners** Not applicable

**5.Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations** Not applicable

**EXECUTIVE BOARD PORTFOLIO  
HOLDERS AWARE/CONSULTED**

Yes

**Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information  
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:**

**THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW:**

<b>Title of Document</b>	<b>File Ref No.</b>	<b>Locations that the papers are available for public inspection</b>
WLGA Correspondence		<a href="http://www.wlga.wales/council-special-meeting-diversity-in-democracy">http://www.wlga.wales/council-special-meeting-diversity-in-democracy</a>