COUNCIL
12TH OCTOBER 2022

MULTI-LOCATION MEETING POLICY

DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Council approves the Multi-location meeting policy.

REASONS:

To provide a policy document for attendance at Multi-location meetings.

Scrutiny Committee consulted	**Not applicable**
Cabinet Decision Required	**NO**
Council Decision Required	**YES**

Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder(s): Cllr Linda Evans (Deputy Leader)
Other:- Cllr Lewis Davies (Chair of Democratic Services Committee)

Directorate	**Chief Executive's**	**Tel Nos.**
		01267 224012 LRJ
Name of Head of Service:	**Designations:**	**01267 224026 GM**
Linda Rees Jones	**Head of Administration & Law**	
		E Mail Addresses:
Report Author:	**Head of Democratic Services**	**Lrjones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk**
Linda Rees Jones		**gmorgan@carmarthenshire.gov.uk**
Gaynor Morgan		

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

MULTI-LOCATION MEETING POLICY

With the implementation of "The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 the Welsh Government has provided Councils the power and freedom to convene multi-location meetings which will enable greater accessibility and public participation in local government decision making.

Meetings must be capable of being held virtually, but each authority can decide whether their meetings will be held fully virtually or multi-location (where some participants are in the same physical location, whilst others join the meeting virtually, also referred to as 'hybrid meetings'). Authorities cannot hold purely physical meetings (apart from the Dyfed Powys Police & Crime Panel which is subject to separate regulation).

For all meetings, participants must be able to speak to and hear each other; and for meetings which are required to be broadcast participants must also be able to see and be seen by each other. These requirements took effect from May 2021, when the temporary provisions for remote attendance at meetings made under the Coronavirus Meeting Regulations 2020 ended.

The Policy should be considered alongside the existing arrangements for meetings as detailed within the Council Constitution, but will not be included in the Constitution itself.

The Constitutional Review Working Group considered the draft policy at its meeting held on the 20th July 2022 and recommended to the Democratic Services Committee that the policy be endorsed.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?	**YES.**

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
NONE	**YES**	**NONE**	**NONE**	**NONE**	**NONE**	**NONE**

Legal

This Policy has been drafted having regard to the provisions of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 and the Welsh Government Interim Statutory Guidance on Multi-Location Meetings (August 2021). The document will be further reviewed once final guidance is issued.

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

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

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
WG Interim Statutory Guidance		https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2021-08/interim-statutory-guidance-on-multi-location-meetings.pdf
Council Constitution		https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-democracy/the-council/councils-constitution/