

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 19TH OCTOBER, 2016

REPORT BY: Solicitor to the Council

SUBJECT: Protocol for Public Participation at Council Meetings

REPORT FOR: Decision

1. Introduction.

1.1 At the meeting of the County Council on 20th January, 2016 it was resolved:

1. to empower the Democratic Services Committee to look at ways in which public participation operates successfully across Wales.
2. to explore options for introducing public participation and make proposals aimed at introducing a system to allow members of the public to contribute in council meetings.

1.2 A review has been undertaken of what happens in Councils in Wales and it has been established that 11 of the 22 County Councils allow public questions at Council meetings. Of the three National Park Authorities [NPAs] Snowdonia and Brecon Beacons NPAs allow public questions at authority meetings.

1.3 At its meeting in July, the Democratic Services Committee agreed principles which would form the protocol, and at its meeting in September, the draft protocol (subject to amendments suggested by the committee) was approved for consideration by the Council.

1.3 The draft protocol is attached to this report and is recommended to the Council for approval. It is also suggested that before the protocol is implemented permanently, it is trialled at a meeting before May 2017 of the Council and then reviewed by the Democratic Services Committee. A May 2017 date has been suggested as Council meetings early in 2017 dealing with budgets may not be appropriate or provide sufficient time to trial this new protocol.

Recommended to Full Council:	Reason for Recommendation:
(i) that the draft protocol for public participation at Council meetings be approved.	To comply with the decision of the Full Council in January 2016 to explore options for allowing members of the public to contribute in Council meetings.
(ii) that prior to its full implementation the protocol be trialled at one meeting of the Council before May 2017 and then reviewed by the Democratic	

Services Committee.	
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Person(s) To Action Decision:	Solicitor to the Council.		
Date By When Decision To Be Actioned:	May, 2017		
Relevant Policy (ies):			
Within Policy:	Y	Within Budget:	Y
Contact Officer Name:	Tel:	Fax:	Email:
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