

**CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.**

**Democratic Services Committee**

**REPORT AUTHOR:** **Head of Democratic Services**

**SUBJECT:** **Developing the involvement of people in public life**

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**REPORT FOR:** **Discussion**

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**1. Background**

- 1.1 The Committee's Work Programme includes the following areas of work:
- Review how the Council engages with young people and
  - Developing the Council to be representative of its electorate in 2022
- and a Democracy Working Group was established to undertake this work.

**2. Work to date**

- 2.1 2018 - the Working Group ran a campaign during the inaugural National Democracy Week 2018 (2-6 July). The National theme for this week was on the Suffrage Centenary – 100 years since woman won the right to vote (6 February 1918) and 90 years since women won equal voting rights to men (1928). The Working Group's campaign promoted stories about influential and inspirational women in Powys, which were shared on social media platforms and other forms of publicity during Democracy Week. A number of female Councillors were interviewed regarding their roles and involvement in public life.
- 2.2 2019 – contact was made with Newtown Town Council and Brecon Town Council regarding their work in developing youth representation and engagement. Contact was also made with One Voice Wales regarding the information it had on this topic. This information now needs to be collated and utilised.

**3. Further work**

- 3.1 Officers consider that links should be developed with the Welsh Youth Parliament and the young people elected to represent Powys. The following is a link to the [Welsh Youth Parliament](#)
- 3.2 Developing such links would support the Democracy Working Group in looking how it looks to promote the involvement of young people in local democracy. As Members will be aware the Assembly in November 2019, voted on the Senedd and Elections Bill, which included the change

to enable 16 and 17 year olds to vote for the first time at the Welsh General Election in 2021.

- 3.3 The Committee is asked to consider how it wishes to develop links with the Welsh Youth Parliament.

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