



Democratic Services Committee

Observations to Council on: Consideration of Single Transferable Voting system

The Democratic Services Committee [DSC] met on 16 November 2023 and considered the following documents:

- Consideration of Single Transferable Voting system – Head of Legal Services' report, including:
- Appendix 1 Welsh Government Report - Implementation of a Single Transferable Vote system for local elections in Wales (summary) and
- Appendix 2 - Welsh Government Report - Implementation of a Single Transferable Vote system for local elections in Wales

DSC made the following observations:

- The cost of consulting the public and town and community councils is £50K, at a time when the council's resources are scarce and there are more pressing priorities,
- after consultation 66% of members would then need to agree to moving to STV and it was considered that this level of support would not be achieved in the council,
- the cost of an election and running a "Count" using the STV system would be more expensive, again at a time when the Council has limited resources,
- STV would benefit political parties and the voice of independent councillors would be lost, so damaging the democratic process,
- the process for voting is confusing and complex, which would lead to a lower voter turnout,
- unnecessary cost to residents,
- other councils have already dismissed STV,
- a multi member ward would lose the links which local councillors now have with communities,
- the bond between the voter and the councillor, as they would be voting for a party,
- the ward sizes would increase making them large and unmanageable and
- voters vote for the person and not the party.

Membership of the DSC on 16 November 2023:

County Councillors E Vaughan (Chair), G Breeze, D Bebb, H Hulme, P Lewington and P E Lewis