

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.

**Democratic Services Committee
8 January 2024**

REPORT AUTHOR: Interim Head of Transformation and Democratic Services

SUBJECT: Social Media Guide for members

REPORT FOR: **Decision**

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to review the Social Media Guide for members, prior to consideration by Council.

2. Background

- 2.1 Version 2 of the Guide was agreed by Council in July 2018. It was developed by a Working Group of members appointed by the Democratic Services Committee and was based on the Guide for staff and adapted to focus on the role of members and how they should use and manage social media.
- 2.2 The current Social Media Policy for staff is under review and the Corporate Health and Safety Forum has been advised that the Guide for members is also under review.

3. Review of the Guide

- 3.1 Revisions have been made to Version 2 of the Guide by officers and the revised draft has been shared with the Monitoring Officer and Communications Team for comment. The latter has advised that they do not have any changes to make and any comments from the Monitoring Officer will be reported verbally to the meeting. The revised Guide contains a link to the Welsh Local Government Association [WLGA] Social media guidance for councillors. This provides a series of guides explaining how to use various social media platforms, provides advice on creating good content, give tips on accessibility and best practice, and shows the best ways to engage in healthy debate and tackle online abuse.
- 3.2 The revised draft was emailed to members, asking for comments and specifically on handling online abuse, by 17 December. Two members responded, one advising that the draft was fine and the comments from the other member have been noted in the draft. Appendix 1 provides a copy of the revised draft showing tracked changes and comments.

4. Recommendation:

The Democratic Services Committee considers the revised Social Media Guide for members and recommends its adoption to Council.

Contact Officer:	Catherine James, Interim Head of Transformation and Democratic Services
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Tel: 01597 826768
Email: catherine.james@powys.gov.uk

Corporate Director / Chief Executive: Emma Palmer