



COUNCIL – 16TH APRIL 2019

SUBJECT: THE USE OF ELECTRONIC VOTING DATA

REPORT BY: HEAD OF LEGAL SERVICES & MONITORING OFFICER

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek the agreement of council for the publication of members' names in the electronic voting information packs published after each meeting of council.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 To regularise the publication of electronic voting information after meetings of the council so that members names will be published rather just than the numbers voting for, against or abstaining on decisions which is the current practice of the council.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That council approve the inclusion of members' names on how they voted in the electronic voting information packs published following each meeting of council.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 To make publically available the information that the council already holds on how each individual member has voted at a meeting of council.

5. THE REPORT

- 5.1 At a meeting of council on the 23rd April, 2013, council agreed to introduce electronic voting for its meetings of council.
- 5.2 It was felt that the use of the electronic voting system for meetings of council will improve transparency of decision making. The system automatically displays in the council chamber how members have voted on a motion and generates a hard copy of how each member has voted. The record showing the numbers of members who voted and how they voted is subsequently published on the council's website the day after each meeting.
- 5.3 Even though the council holds the information on how each member has voted, the practice of the council has been to only publish the numbers of how members voted when the electronic voting packs are published. The names of the members are only published where a recorded vote has been requested in the chamber.

5.4 Moving forward, the intention is that the members' names and how they voted will be made available when the electronic voting packs are published. The council holds the information and if a request for the information was received under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, then it would have to be released. Therefore, it is felt that it would be good practice for the council to publish the information.

5.5 If members wish for a recorded vote to take place at the meeting of council, then that can still be requested if 10 members support the proposal.

5.6 **Conclusion**

As the council already holds the information, it is good practice to automatically publish it in the electronic voting pack.

6. **ASSUMPTIONS**

6.1 That the council continues to adopt the electronic voting procedure at its meetings of council.

7. **WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS**

7.1 The report contributes to the each of the following Well-being Goals within the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015:

- A prosperous Wales
- A resilient Wales
- A healthier Wales
- A more equal Wales
- A Wales of cohesive communities
- A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language
- A globally responsible Wales

8. **EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 There are no specific equalities implications that directly affect the council arising from the report.

9. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 None. The council chamber is already equipped with an audio/visual system that allows members to vote electronically. The costs in maintaining the electronic voting system are met from existing budgets.

10. **PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 There are none.

11. **CONSULTATIONS**

11.1 This report has been sent to the Consultees listed below and all comments received are reflected in this report.

12. STATUTORY POWER

12.1 The Local Government Act 2000.

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Consultees: Cllr D Poole, Council Leader
Cllr B Jones, Cabinet Member for Finance, Performance & Governance
Cllr C Mann, Leader, Plaid Cymru Group
Cllr K Etheridge, Leader, Independent Group
Christina Harrhy, Interim Chief Executive
Richard Edmunds, Corporate Director – Education & Corporate Services
Lisa Lane, Deputy Monitoring Officer