

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: **CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE**

DATE: **WEDNESDAY, 26 MARCH 2014**

REPORT BY: **HEAD OF LEGAL & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

SUBJECT: **POSSIBLE REDUCTION IN SIZE OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES AND CONSTITUTION COMMITTEES**

1.00 **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.01 To consider a reduction in the size of both the Democratic Services and Constitution Committees.

2.00 **BACKGROUND**

2.01 A councillor has asked for consideration to be given to reducing the size of both the Democratic Services and Constitution Committees from 21 to 15 Members. The Chair has agreed to this being considered by the Democratic Services Committee immediately prior to consideration by this committee. The recommendation from the Democratic Services Committee meeting will be reported verbally to the meeting.

3.00 **CONSIDERATIONS**

3.01 Attached as Appendix 1 is a record of attendances at meetings of the Democratic Services and Constitution Committees over the last 12 months. This shows that the average number of Members attending a meeting of the Democratic Services Committee is 12. The Committee may therefore consider that as a result of this the size of the Committee can be reduced.

3.02 The Chair of both Committees makes the point that there is little that can be done to vary the content of matters coming before each Committee and that if some Members are not sufficiently interested to attend, this should be taken note of. The size of the committee is not a measure of its importance.

3.03 Both the Democratic Services Committee and Constitution Committee have the same membership and chair so as to facilitate both Committees meeting on the same day and one immediately following the other. The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 requires that Democratic Services Committees limit the matters such committees can consider and therefore prevents it being combined with the Constitution Committee.

3.04 The committee needs to consider whether reducing the size of the Democratic Services and Constitution Committees will improve its effectiveness. It also needs to consider what is the most appropriate size for the two committees.

3.05 Any change to the size of the Democratic Services Committee needs to be agreed by this committee which would also need to consider reducing its own size to correspond. Any change agreed by this committee would then need to be considered by County Council with a view to the change taking effect at the annual meeting.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.01 For the committee to consider any recommendation from the Democratic Services Committee and any consequent changes to its own size.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.01 None as a result of this report.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

6.01 None as a result of this report.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

7.01 None as a result of this report.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

8.01 None as a result of this report.

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.01 None as a result of this report.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

10.01 None as a result of this report.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

11.01 With the Chair of the Democratic Services and Constitution Committees.

12.00 APPENDICES

12.01 Appendix 1 – Attendance Records

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None

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