

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

COUNCIL: 6TH MARCH, 2023

REFERENCE FROM CABINET: 19TH JANUARY, 2023

“C200 THE COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO THE WELSH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION: ELECTORAL ADMINISTRATION AND REFORM WHITE PAPER (CEERS) (SCRUTINY – CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES) –

The Cabinet Member presented the report, the purpose of which was to seek Cabinet approval for the proposed response to the Welsh Government's consultation paper on Electoral Administration and Reform White Paper.

The Council was broadly in favour of the 6 principles for electoral reform described in Question 1 within Appendix A but there was some concern over divergence from the Electoral Act in the UK. Cabinet Members were supportive of making participation and standing in elections easier and that some reform to encourage people to stand for election was required, but agreed that there had to be representative representation amongst elected Members, e.g., gender balance, etc. There was discussion concerning the important role of agents, making being able to vote as accessible as possible and support for new Members.

This was a matter for Executive decision.

Cabinet, having considered the report and all the issues and implications contained therein

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T the proposed response attached to the report at Appendix A be submitted to Welsh Government.

(2) T H A T the use of paragraph 15.14.2(ii) of the Council's Constitution (urgent decision procedure) be authorised to allow the response to be sent to Welsh Government by the extended deadline of 23rd January, 2023.

Reasons for decisions

(1) To apprise Welsh Government on the Council's views on the matter, including in the Consultation.

(2) In order to meet the Welsh Government timescale.”