

Ref: DSC/GN/DD/09.03.17

Dyddiad/Date: 09/03/2017

Councillor De'Ath  
Cabinet Member for Skills, Safety and Engagement,  
County Hall,  
Atlantic Wharf,  
Cardiff CF10 4UW.



Dear Councillor De 'Ath,

**Democratic Services Committee – White Paper: Reforming Local Government: Resilient and Renewed**

The Democratic Services Committee on 8 March 2017 considered the provisions in the White Paper Reforming Local Government: Resilient and Renewed relating to Leading Localities and the role of Councillors, as set out in Section 5.2 and in response to Question 22.

The Committee found that, with the exception of the provision within 5.27 on the modification of the need to hold surgeries in light of the Jo Cox tragedy, there was little detail in the provisions identifying what the minimum expectations were for Councillors to interact with local constituents. The Committee was therefore unable to endorse these provisions of the White paper.

The Committee felt that within the political landscape of the City of Cardiff Council there was sufficient competition for the Office of Councillor to ensure that Councillors are:

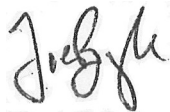
- actively engaged with their communities and constituents;
- visible at meetings of the Council;
- given opportunities to participate in the decision-making of the Council.

The Committee believed that every Councillor has a responsibility for their own standards of conduct. There are processes in place within political groups and through the Standards & Ethic Committee that address any standards issues. Furthermore, the proposal to place new duties on Leaders of political groups did not make clear what those duties would be.

The Committee was keen to look at ways of increasing the diversity of Councillors and would consider this further in collaboration with Party Groups.

We would be pleased if these comments could be passed on to the Cabinet at its meeting on 16 March 2017 so that they can be incorporated into the corporate response from the Council.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joe Boyle', is enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

**Councillor Joe Boyle**  
**Chairperson Democratic Services Committee**

cc:	Davina Fiore	Director of Governance and Legal Services
	Claire Deguara	Cabinet Business Manager
	Alison Taylor	Cabinet Member Support Officer