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Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Gyllid a Llywodraeth Leol
Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-681
Ein cyf/Our ref MD/00078/17

Mike Hedges AM
Chair - Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
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Dear Mike,

Thank you for your letter of 1 February regarding the public recording of local government meetings.

The White Paper, 'Reforming Local Government: Resilient and Renewed' currently the subject of consultation, proposes to retain the provisions from the Draft Local Government (Wales) Bill which require Local Authorities to produce strategies explaining how the public can understand how decisions are made and how they can participate in the process. Further to this, I intend to make broadcasting of Council meetings a statutory requirement. Councils will also be required to allow members to attend meetings remotely.

The Welsh Government previously provided financial support to encourage local authorities to broadcast their meetings, to enable remote attendance at council meetings and to enable community councils to set up websites.

In March 2013, the then Local Government Minister, Carl Sargeant announced 1.25 million pounds of grant funding for this purpose, 21 local authorities took advantage of the funding that was made available to them, Neath Port Talbot were the only local authority not to do so. The funding was predominantly spent on hiring Public-i to facilitate the broadcasting of meetings.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

I encourage all local authorities to allow access to their proceedings and I am pleased to see that this is now regular practice in many local authorities.

Best wishes,

Mark

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