

Cllr. Debbie Wilcox
Leader, Newport City Council

13 March 2017

Dear Debbie

#SeneddNewport initiative

I am writing to thank you for agreeing in principle to meet Members of the National Assembly's Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee as part of the #SeneddNewport initiative. I am sorry that diaries have not allowed for this to happen.

As you will be aware the Committee is currently undertaking an **inquiry** which considers relations between governments in Wales and the UK. As part of the process of gathering evidence, we are trialling a small citizen panel – an Assembly first - to test early on in the course of the inquiry, participants' perceptions and expectations of inter-institutional working and relationships, and discover their thoughts on learning from other institutions.

The panel is made up of six citizens who are demographically diverse in terms of age, location, socio-economic background, and gender. Participants are aged 16-59 and represent locations from all across Wales. In order to obtain a broad range of views we have ensured the participants have not taken part in a previous National Assembly consultation, and do not necessarily have previous knowledge or understanding of the constitution in Wales.

It is our intention for the panel's views to provide the Committee the opportunity to focus aspects of its scrutiny around the issues raised.

The Committee has made it a priority in this Assembly to promote the public understanding of constitutional matters and extend the Committee's sphere of influence.



To date the work undertaken by the Committee and its predecessor to develop relationships has focussed on key constitutional stakeholders. However, we are keen to extend this more widely and acknowledge that this audience will change depending on the work being undertaken. We have therefore committed to undertaking innovative methods of working where possible, and consider the best ways of involving citizens at all available opportunities. We will not restrict ourselves to any single approach and will look for innovative methods of engagement.

I was therefore interested to learn about your intention to take forward an initiative to make Newport a City of Democracy. I'd be keen to hear more about the overall vision: why you have chosen to develop this initiative and what benefits this will bring Newport. As I understand you are also engaging a citizen panel to trial a range of new, collaborative digital democracy tools. I would welcome details of your experience in engaging the public and any advice you can share on best practice.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Huw Irranca-Davies". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal stroke.

Huw Irranca-Davies

Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

