DEMOCRACY AND BOUNDARY COMMISSION CYMRU ELECTORAL MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING

HELD AT 10:00 AM ON 12th JUNE 2026 AT CP2 AND MICROSOFT TEAMS

Present: Ian Bancroft (Chair); Eifion Evans (Deputy Chair); Bethan Williams Price (Member); Neal Cockerton (Member); Paul Orders (Member);

DBCC Officers attending: Shereen Williams(Chief Executive); Mark Pascoe (Head of Democratic Health); Jo Nelson (Senior Elections Manager); Ellie Chapman (Democratic Health Policy Officer)

Apologies: Martin Nicholls (Member); Beverly Owen (Member)

Time Started: 10:03
Time Finished: 10:25

Closed session for EMB members and officials

A. Proposed schedule of meetings 2026/27 – amendment

a. It was **agreed** to have an additional meeting on the 9th April in the lead up to May 2027 local elections.

b. It was **noted** that the June meeting is scheduled to take place a week earlier to avoid it taking place during the school holiday.

c. The meetings were **agreed**.

d. It was **noted** that Bethan would not be able to make the November meeting.

B. Forward work programme

a. Consideration was given to the Report dated 5th June.

b. It was **noted** that Bethan will not be able to attend the November meeting to provide the communications deep dive. Instead, the work will be completed in advance.

c. It was **noted** that some agreements will fall out of the meeting cycle such as the WEIP tender. In these instances, the EMB will write out to Members using the Steering Group to make recommendations.

C. Board Membership

a. It was **noted** that Karen has written to the four statutory Members of the Board, and that confirmation letters of their membership are expected next week, following completion of translation of the appointment letters.

b. It was **noted** that Martin has requested a one year appointment whilst the rest are 4 years.

c. It was **noted** that Paul is stepping down as a Member.

d. It was **noted** that there are currently four ROs on the Board, and that the EMB is considering adding a more recently-appointed RO to broaden the Board's expertise and as part of a wider focus on retention of members.

e. It was **noted** that new appointments will have to go through the DBCC Board meeting at the end of the month.

f. An update was provided by Paul regarding the appointment of a replacement Member, he has spoken to the RO for RCT, Andy Wilkins, who is prepared to become a Member of the Board. It was **agreed** for the Chair to follow up.

g. A discussion was held around the role of the Deputy Chair as Eifion will be stepping down from this role.

h. It was **agreed** for Neal to become the new Deputy Chair of the EMB.

D. Ways of working

a. A discussion was held regarding more distributed leadership, with consideration given to enabling the Chair and Deputy Chair of the working group to lead and shape discussions on agenda items.

b. A discussion was held on facilitating broader participation in discussions and debates. It was **agreed** that future agendas will include a designated discussive item to ensure all attendees have the opportunity to contribute.

c. It was **noted** that an email was previously issued following each Board meeting. A discussion was held on identifying a more effective method for communicating EMB updates.

d. It was **noted** that the minutes from the previous year will be published, and minutes will be published at an earlier rate to go out to ROs.

e. It was **noted** that the Chair is attending regional meetings with all 22 ROs in Wales.

f. It was **noted** that two workshops will take place in the Autumn.

g. It was **agreed** to not have a closed session before every EMB meeting unless when they are required, with the minimum being two a year.

h. It was **agreed** to have the closed session as a separate meeting invititation.

i. Thanks was given to Paul Orders and Eifion Evans for their contribution to the Board.