

**Mark Drakeford AM**  
Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Our ref qA1270260

To all candidates in the elections to  
County and County Borough Councils and to  
Community and Town Councils

January 2017

Dear Colleague,

I would like to congratulate you on your decision to stand as a candidate at the forthcoming local government elections.

We want our councils to be representative of the communities they serve. Over the last few years the Welsh Government has taken initiatives to encourage people from under-represented groups to stand for local government elections.

Every local authority is required to conduct a survey of candidates at each local government election so we can measure the progress being made although no candidate is obliged to provide any information.

For this election, the Local Government Data Unit ~ Wales (Data Unit Wales) will conduct the survey on behalf of local authorities in Wales. The data they collect will then be provided to each local authority and the Welsh Government. A report will be published based on the results.

For more information and to complete the survey go to:

[www.election.cymru/newport](http://www.election.cymru/newport)

The information gained will help us to review and develop policies to widen participation in the democratic process.

I would urge you all to respond, whether this is for the first time or whether you completed it for the last elections – your help is invaluable to us. If you would like a paper copy of the survey or have any accessibility requirements, please contact Data Unit Wales on 029 2090 9500.

Yours sincerely

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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.