

## Innovating Democracy Advisory Group - work programme

### Background

The Innovating Democracy Advisory Group (IDAG) has been established in response to Recommendation 1 of the Independent Commission on the Constitutional Future of Wales, whose final report (published 18 January 2024) highlighted growing challenges to Welsh democracy - particularly low levels of public knowledge and engagement with democratic institutions.

The Commission proposed a set of reforms to strengthen democracy in Wales, including the creation of an expert panel to support democratic innovation and inclusive community engagement. The Welsh Government accepted this recommendation and committed to:

- Continuing partnership working with key institutions including the Electoral Commission, Senedd Commission, local government, and others.
- Allocating funding to support constitutional reform, including a programme of work to follow on from the Commission.
- Focusing on immediate actions to improve democratic engagement and innovation.

The Chair and members of IDAG have been appointed to spring 2026, with the possibility of extension. At this stage, the work programme does not commit to fixed timescales for delivery of each action. This reflects the exploratory and collaborative nature of the work, and the need to remain responsive to evidence, stakeholder input, and evolving priorities.

This draft work programme sets out how IDAG will support the Welsh Government in delivering on this commitment, building on existing initiatives and legislative frameworks.

### Scope of work

The IDAG has been tasked with delivering a focused, high-impact programme of work. The scope of this work reflects the ambition to strengthen Welsh democracy and the need for inclusive, participatory approaches that empower citizens and build institutional capacity for democratic innovation.

The work programme is structured around three core ambitions:

- **Empowering Citizens through Democratic Education and Information**  
IDAG will explore how to ensure all people in Wales—particularly young people and under-represented groups—have the knowledge, confidence, and opportunities to participate meaningfully in democratic life.
- **Strengthening Political Culture for Participation and Deliberation**  
Recognising that citizens involvement in democracy must extend beyond elections, IDAG will assess how to foster a culture of participation within Welsh political institutions.

- **Laying Foundations for Constitutional Principles**

IDAG will support the Welsh Government in exploring how to develop a participatory process for articulating a shared set of constitutional principles and values for Wales.

This work programme identifies priority areas that are actionable in the short term. These short-term actions will lay the groundwork for longer-term activity that could be taken forward in the next Senedd term.

We anticipate that more detailed timelines will emerge as the programme develops and as specific strands of work are scoped in greater depth.

This scope reflects a commitment to inclusive governance, evidence-based policymaking, and long-term democratic health.

### **Summary of Thematic Areas of Activity and Proposed Actions**

<b>Theme</b>	<b>Short Term Actions</b>
<b>Empowering Citizens through Democratic Education and Information</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence sessions on Curriculum for Wales (CfW) and current activities to deliver democratic education.</li> <li>• Pilot participatory processes</li> <li>• Develop principles and proposals for democratic education beyond schools.</li> </ul>
<b>Strengthening Political Culture for Participation and Deliberation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess participatory maturity of political institutions.</li> <li>• Review international models of culture change and deliberation.</li> <li>• Engage public servants and politicians in deliberative processes to explore pathways to changing culture around public engagement.</li> <li>• Explore how to strengthen involvement under the Well-being of Future Generations Act.</li> </ul>
<b>Laying Foundations for Constitutional Principles</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gather evidence to understand key considerations for such a constitutional statement.</li> <li>• Explore and learn from international examples of participatory constitution-making.</li> </ul>