



Written on behalf of the Swansea Area Ratepayers Association (SARA)
Swansea Area Ratepayers Group (SARG)

February 20, 2019

Attn:

Deputy Mayor S. Holyday

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Councillor Perks Ward 4

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Ref: GV1.3 Public Input on Interim Special Committee on Governance - Term Limits February 21, 2019 from the Swansea Area Ratepayers Association/Group (SARA/SARG)

Special Committee on Governance GV1.3 – Number and Length of Term Limits

The following are the reasons why SARA **does not support limiting the number of Terms** for Councillors:

- A limit on the **number of terms** is not the proper tool for good governance in a democratic system, voter engagement is.
- Limiting the number of terms punishes good representatives and their constituents by barring the representative from offering his or her service.
- Term limits encourage sloth or worse during the final term of office because there is no reasonable chance of re-election no matter how hard or well the representative works.

The following are the reasons why SARA **does support limiting the Length of Terms** for Councillors:

- Limiting the **length of a term of office** is a necessary feature of a functioning democracy. However, if the term is too long there is no incentive to get things done in an efficient manner and if too short prevents initiatives from being completed.
- We believe that the three year term of office was a balanced term and worked very well before it was changed. We believe that the term of office should be returned to the three year term limit.

Yours sincerely,

Nick Singh
SARA/SARG Past President