

Cyfarfod Bwrdd Gweithredol CLILC

**Dydd Gwener 16 Gorffennaf 2021
drwys Zoom**



- 09.00 Rhag-gyfarfodydd Grwpiau Gwleidyddol CLILC**
- 09:45 Arweinwyr y Grwpiau Gwleidyddol CLILC**
- 10:00 Rebecca Evans AS, Y Gweinidog Cyllid a Llywodraeth Leol a Eluned Morgan AS, (Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol**
- 11:00 Cyfarfod Bwrdd Gweithredol CLILC**

RHAGLEN

- 1. Croeso ac ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb (5 munud)**
- 2. Adolygu cofnodion *drafft*: (5 munud)**
 - **Bwrdd Gweithredol CLILC 28 Mai 2021**
 - **Cyfarfod Cyffredinol Blynyddol Cyngor CLILC 25 Chwefror 2021**
- 3. Diweddariadau'r Arweinwyr a'r Llefarydd (10 munud)**
- 4. Fformiwla Ariannol Llywodraeth Leol (20 munud)**
- 5. Rhaglen Lywodraethu Llywodraeth Cymru (10 munud)**
- 6. Datgarboneiddio (10 munud)**
- 7. Rheoli Covid Hir mewn Llywodraeth Leol (10 munud)**
- 8. Ailfrandio CLILC (20 munud)**
- 9. Unrhyw fater arall**
- 12:30 Cloi**

WLGA Executive Board

Friday 16th July 2021

Via Zoom



- 09.00** **WLGA Political Group meetings**
- 09:45** **WLGA Political Group Leaders**
- 10:00** **Rebecca Evans, Minister for Finance & Local Government and Eluned Morgan, Minister for Health & Social Services**

11:00 to 12:30 WLGA EXECUTIVE BOARD

AGENDA

- Item 1.** **Welcome and apologies for absence (5 mins)**
- Item 2.** **To review the draft minutes of: (5 mins)**
- **WLGA Executive Board 28th May 2021**
 - **WLGA Council AGM 25th June 2021**
- Item 3.** **Leader and Spokespersons' Updates (10 mins)**
- Item 4.** **Local Government Funding Formula (20 mins)**
- Item 5.** **Welsh Government's Programme for Government (10 mins)**
- Item 6.** **Decarbonisation (10 mins)**
- Item 7.** **Managing Long Covid in Local Government (10 mins)**
- Item 8.** **WLGA Rebranding (20 mins)**
- Item 9.** **Any other business**

MINUTES OF WLGA MEETINGS

Purpose

1. For Executive Board Council members to review the draft minutes of the WLGA meetings specified.

Background

2. The draft minutes of the meetings listed below, are appended in date order:
 - 2.1 WLGA Executive Board 28th May 2021
 - 2.2 WLGA Council AGM 25th June 2021

Recommendations

3. Members are asked to:

- 3.1 Approve the draft minutes of the WLGA Executive Board held 28th May 2021;**
- 3.2 Note the draft minutes of the WLGA Council AGM 25th June 2021.**

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2.1 Draft Minutes WLGA Executive Board

WLGA Executive Board

Friday 28th May 2021

11:00 to 13:15 via Teams



Present:

Chair: WLGA Deputy Presiding Officer, Cllr Jane Mudd (Newport)

Blaenau Gwent – Cllr Nigel Daniels
 Cardiff – Cllr Susan Elsmore
 Ceredigion – Cllr Ellen ap Gwynn
 Conwy – Cllr Charlie McCoubrey
 Denbighshire – Cllr Hugh Evans
 Gwynedd – Cllr Dyfrig Siencyn
 Isle of Anglesey – Cllr Llinos Medi
 Merthyr Tydfil – Cllr Lisa Mytton
 Monmouthshire – Cllr Richard John
 Neath Port Talbot – Cllr Edward Latham
 Newport – Cllr Jane Mudd
 Powys – Cllr Rosemarie Harris
 Rhondda Cynon Taf – Cllr Andrew Morgan
 Torfaen – Cllr Anthony Hunt
 Vale of Glamorgan – Cllr Neil Moore
 Wrexham – Cllr Mark Pritchard

Other Members in attendance

Cllr Susan Elsmore (Swansea), LGA
 Spokesperson for Equalities, Welfare
 Reform and Anti-Poverty

Apologies

Bridgend – Cllr Huw David
 Caerphilly – Cllr Philippa Marsden
 Cardiff – Cllr Huw Thomas
 Carmarthenshire – Cllr Emlyn Dole
 Flintshire – Cllr Ian Roberts
 Pembrokeshire – Cllr David Simpson
 Swansea – Cllr Rob Stewart

WLGA Officers in attendance:

Dr Chris Llewelyn, Chief Executive
 Naomi Alleyne, Director of Social Services & Housing
 Jon Rae, Director of Resources
 Tim Peppin, Director of Regeneration & Sustainable Development
 Daniel Hurford, Head of Policy Improvement & Governance
 Sharon Davies, Head of Education
 Graham Jones, Associate HR Adviser
 Jonathan Lloyd, Head of Employment
 Lee Pitt, Democratic Services Officer
 Emily Griffiths, Senior Support Officer

Item 1. Welcome and apologies for absence

1. The Deputy Presiding Officer welcomed Leaders to the meeting and the apologies for absence were accepted and recorded as above.

Item 2. Minutes of WLGA Meetings

2. Members reviewed the draft minutes of the:

- 2.1 WLGA Council 27th March 2021
- 2.2 WLGA Audit Committee 15th April 2021
- 2.3 WLGA Management Sub-Committee 23rd April 2021

3. Resolved that

- 3.1 Members noted the draft minutes of the WLGA Council 27th March 2021**
- 3.2 Members noted the draft minutes of the WLGA Audit Committee 15th April 2021**
- 3.3 Members noted the draft minutes of the WLGA Audit Committee 15th April 2021**

Item 3. WLGA Leader and Spokespersons' Updates

4. The Leader emphasised the importance of building on the relationship that had been developed between local government and the Welsh Government during the pandemic going forward. He stressed it was important that authorities were aware of announcements from the Welsh Government before they are made to not be caught off guard and to be able to highlight any issues in advance.
5. Cllr Morgan also mentioned results of the Boundary Commission Reviews due to be published shortly and his concerns. This was also mentioned in the earlier meeting in the morning between Leaders' and the Minister for Finance and Local Government.
6. He also reported there had been a meeting with the new Economy Minister and WLGA Spokespersons had raised concerns in relation to the reopening of hospitality and the fact that in the Valleys there are many small pubs that do not qualify for Business Support as they have casual staff. He reported that there is some support for taxi drivers, to be delivered through authorities. There will be a further meeting with the Minister in a few weeks.

7. Cllr Morgan mentioned that some leaders had recently given evidence to the Welsh Affairs Committee which was examining the *Delivery of levelling up agenda in Wales* and noted there were anomalies with what the WLGA was saying and what the Wales Office had said.
8. In terms of close engagement there has not been much in relation to the Community Renewal Fund and the Levelling Up Fund with the Wales Office and other UK Gov departments. He mentioned concerns that authorities will not have CRF approvals until Autumn with funding to be spent this financial year. The Levelling Up funding has to be spent by March 2024 and some authorities are at risk of missing out completely due to the competitive nature of the funding. With no fixed allocation of funding to Wales, in a worst-case scenario, no LAs in Wales might receive any funding in this competition, although UK Gov has said at least 5% of the fund will come to Wales. There needs to be a triangular conversation between authorities the Welsh Government and UK Gov. He noted the Committee appeared receptive to this suggestion. He added that because of timing and deadlines for submissions there is a concern that some of the bids put forward will be from other organisations and may not align with the priorities of authorities.
9. **Education Update** - Cllr Ellen ap Gwynn, Deputy Education spokesperson noted that all pupils who were due to sit exams has completed the assessment programme with results due in June. She also reported that teaching unions are not keen on moving to no face coverings in schools for pupils during lessons.
10. **Social Care** - Cllr Llinos Medi, Deputy Spokesperson Health and Social Care (Children) reported spokespersons had met with the Deputy Minister for Social Services. The Deputy Minister is keen to progress work on the real living wage and there was discussion on how local government could support this shared ambition with the offer of supporting any pilot work that might be considered. It was outlined that there will £40m will be invested into supporting the integrated care of older people with complex needs. There will be an announcement of £3m to support short-break respite schemes to help carers and the Deputy Minister was keen to encourage local authorities to consider how they can re-open day services and respite services where they have not been already, and to set out plans for re-opening, particularly as restrictions are eased. The pressures on the residential care sector were raised along with children looked after. While referrals have increased members stressed the full pressures are still unknown.

Item 4. Senedd Elections Update (Oral)

11. The Chief Executive reported that welcome letters have been sent to all Senedd members, with positive responses and many keen to work with local government. He reported that there had been contact between all Spokespersons and new Ministers and meetings would be arranged shortly. He

noted that relationships with SPADs were close and they have been advised to build on the experience of the pandemic and the close working relationships between Ministers and WLGA that have been developed.

12. Chris stressed the importance of keeping up the momentum and impetus to 'get things done' and noted that the First Minister will be standing down before the next Senedd election. Once Senedd Committee Chairs are announced introductory meetings will be arranged. Similarly, when the Programme for Government is published it will be useful in targeting discussions.
13. He noted that number of new Senedd members were former leaders with a good understanding of local government and the importance of building on those relationships in a meaningful way. It was noted that Peter Fox MS was the Shadow Finance Minister and Sam Rowlands MS Shadow Local Government Minister.
14. Chris also reported he recently had met with Manon Antoniazzi, Chief Executive and Clerk of the Senedd, to discuss developing more effective relations between local government and the Senedd as an institution
15. Chris noted that following the recent meeting of the UK Forum, it was clear that engagement between the Welsh Government and local authorities in Wales is closer than anywhere else in the UK. He noted too that the relationship between the UK Gov and local authorities in Wales was also closer than in England, Chris also mentioned the forthcoming meetings with Leaders and Robert Jenrick, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government and Simon Hart, Secretary of State for Wales.

Item 5. Local Government Finance Formula (presentation)

16. The presentation was given by the Director of Resources and Chris Barton an Independent Member of the Distribution Sub Group.
17. Jon explained the presentation is the first in a two-step process to inform and engage Leaders in relation to the Local Government Finance Formula.
18. Some members feel there is a widening gap between the worst and best funded authorities and that rural areas are affected worse as there is limited scope for efficiency savings or economies of scale. The absence of a floor in the Settlement was also highlighted as a concern.
19. **ACTIONS:**
 - **Presentation to be circulated to Leaders.**
 - **Arrange a meeting of WLGA members of the Finance Sub-Group**

- **Paper reflecting discussions at this meeting to be brought to the next Executive Board.**

Item 6. Expenditure Pressures and Budgets 2022-23

20. Cllr Hunt, Finance and Resources Spokesperson, introduced the paper and explained it prepares the ground for further work to feed into finance discussions going into the next budget round. He noted the paper summarises the early assessment of local government spending pressures recently published by Wales Fiscal Analysis and the next steps needed to fully understand expenditure pressures to 2024-25 and align these with authorities' own medium-term financial plans.
21. The meeting earlier in the morning with the Minister for Finance and Local Government was referenced where Leaders were clear with the Minister that multi-year settlements are vital for effective financial planning for authorities. He also noted the opportunity to work with new Senedd members who have a local government background.
22. The Director of Resources reported that work was moving at pace. He noted that the core pressures do not vary much year on year and the model will be refreshed over the summer. The work of the Wales Fiscal Analysis Team would also be useful in providing useful independent voice.
23. Members asked whether about the Hardship Fund and the Leader reported that the fund is in place to September with a current underspend but that conversations are ongoing with the Welsh Government. He added it is difficult to lobby to far into the future when claims are still to be made and processed. He also noted the fund has been topped up three times in 2020-21.
24. **Resolved that**

**24.1 Members noted the contents of the paper; and
Members agreed to commission two surveys from
Treasurers: one of COVID pressures for the latter half of
21-22 and another on medium-term pressures up to 24-
25.**

Item 7. Welsh Government Race Equality Action Plan

25. Cllr Susan Elsmore, WLGA Spokesperson for Equalities, Welfare Reform and Anti-Poverty introduced the paper summarising the Welsh Government's Race

Equality Action Plan and asked members for views to help inform the WLGA's draft consultation response.

26. Cllr Elsmore reported that the plan is challenging with the central aim of a non-racist Wales by 2020. She noted there is a lot that can be supported in the plan and that local authorities had already taken a number of initiatives in support of this aim.
27. Cllr Elsmore highlighted the issue of accountability and reported that the Welsh Government has suggested that civil servants, combined with stakeholders, be responsible for accountability but noted that local authorities, as statutory bodies, already have their own scrutiny arrangements.
28. **Resolved that**
 - 28.1 Members considered the contents of the report;**
 - 28.2 Members provided views on the draft Race Equality Action Plan's aims, goals and actions to inform the WLGA's draft consultation response;**
 - 28.3 Members noted that the draft WLGA consultation response will be considered by Equality Cabinet Members' Network on 14th June and agree that the response is approved on behalf of the WLGA by the Spokesperson for Equalities in consultation with WLGA Group Leaders; (*the consultation deadline has been extended to 15th July and the Equality Cabinet Members will consider the draft response on 8th July) and**
 - 28.4 All local authorities are encouraged to respond to the Race Equality Action Plan consultation.**

Item 8. Natural Resources Wales discussion

29. The Leader introduced the paper which provides background information on Natural Resources Wales (NRW) and identifies some of the key areas of interface with local authorities and provides a basis for discussion amongst Leaders. He noted the findings from Audit Wales and suggested that, given local authorities experiences of the operation of NRW, a request be made to the Minister for Climate Change for a review of the function and remit of NRW. This would enable authorities to feedback their views as part of the review process.
30. **Resolved that**

30.1 Members agreed unanimously to write to Welsh Government requesting that the role, function and purpose of Natural Resources Wales be reviewed

Item 9. Any Other Business

31. Cllr Susan Elsmore raised the relocation of Afghan Nationals to the UK policy and Home Office letter circulated to leaders. She mentioned that grant funding will only last for four months and encouraged authorities to respond the Home Office letter.

11:30 The Deputy Presiding officer closed the meeting.

2.2 Draft Minutes

The 26th Annual General Meeting of the WLGA Council via Zoom

Friday 25th June 2021

Present:

Cllr Nigel Daniels (Blaenau Gwent)
 Cllr Dai Davies (Blaenau Gwent)
 Cllr Huw David (Bridgend)
 Cllr Hywel Williams (Bridgend)
 Cllr Cheryl Green (Bridgend)
 Cllr Phillipa Marsden (Caerphilly)
 Cllr Nigel George (Caerphilly)
 Cllr Eluned Stenner (Caerphilly)
 Cllr Emlyn Dole (Carmarthenshire)
 Cllr Linda Evans (Carmarthenshire)
 Cllr David M Jenkins (Carmarthenshire)
 Cllr Huw Thomas (Cardiff)
 Cllr Sarah Merry (Cardiff)
 Cllr Michael Michael (Cardiff)
 Cllr Susan Elsmore (Cardiff)
 Cllr Christopher Weaver (Cardiff)
 Cllr Russell Goodway (Cardiff)
 Cllr Ellen ap Gwynn (Ceredigion)
 Cllr Ray Quant MBE (Ceredigion)
 Cllr Charlie McCoubrey (Conwy)
 Cllr Nigel Smith (Conwy)
 Cllr Goronwy Edwards (Conwy)
 Cllr Hugh Evans OBE (Denbighshire)
 Cllr Julian Thompson-Hill (Denbighshire)
 Cllr Ian Roberts (Flintshire)
 Cllr Christine Jones (Flintshire)
 Cllr Michelle Perfect (Flintshire)
 Cllr Billy Mullin (Flintshire)
 Cllr Dyfrig Siencyn (Gwynedd)
 Cllr Dafydd Meurig (Gwynedd)
 Cllr Llinos Medi (Isle of Anglesey)
 Cllr Ieuan Williams (Isle of Anglesey)
 Cllr Lisa Mytton (Merthyr Tydfil)
 Cllr Chris Davies (Merthyr Tydfil)
 Cllr Richard John (Monmouthshire)

Cllr Sara Jones (Monmouthshire)
 Cllr Edward Latham (Neath Port Talbot)
 Cllr Leanne Jones (Neath Port Talbot)
 Cllr Carol Clement-Williams (Neath Port Talbot)
 Cllr Jane Mudd (Newport)
 Cllr Roger Jeavons (Newport)
 Cllr Mark Spencer (Newport)
 Cllr David Simpson (Pembrokeshire)
 Cllr Neil Prior (Pembrokeshire)
 Cllr Paul Miller (Pembrokeshire)
 Cllr Rosemarie Harris (Powys)
 Cllr Rachel Powell (Powys)
 Cllr Aled Davies (Powys)
 Cllr Andrew Morgan (Rhondda Cynon Taf)
 Cllr Robert Bevan (Rhondda Cynon Taf)
 Cllr Rhys Lewis (Rhondda Cynon Taf)
 Cllr Christina Leyshon (Rhondda Cynon Taf)
 Cllr Maureen Webber (Rhondda Cynon Taf)
 Cllr Rob Stewart (Swansea)
 Cllr Andrea Lewis (Swansea)
 Cllr Louise Gibbard (Swansea)
 Cllr Richard Clark (Torfaen)
 Cllr Neil Moore (Vale of Glamorgan)
 Cllr Lis Burnett (Vale of Glamorgan)
 Cllr Ben Gray (Vale of Glamorgan)
 Cllr Mark Pritchard (Wrexham)
 Cllr T Alan Edwards (Wrexham)

Apologies

Cllr Anthony Hunt (Torfaen)
 Cllr David A Bithell (Wrexham)
 Cllr Peter Bradbury (Cardiff)
 Cllr Gareth Thomas (Gwynedd)
 Cllr Mark Thomas (Swansea)

WLGA Officers

Dr Chris Llewelyn, Chief Executive

Naomi Alleyne, Director Social Services & Housing

Dr Tim Peppin, Director of Regeneration & Sustainable Development

Daniel Hurford, Head of Policy (Improvement and Governance)

Sharon Davies, Head of Education

Lee Pitt, Democratic Services Officer

Emily Griffiths, Senior Support Officer

WLGA Council received an address from the First Minister of Wales and the Minister for Finance and Local Government.

The Presiding Officer thanked the First Minister for meeting with the Council, welcomed the Welsh Government's commitment to engagement and partnership with local government and placed on record his recognition of the First Minister's leadership during the pandemic.

Item 1: Welcome from the Chief Executive of the WLGA

1. The Chief Executive welcomed the members to the 26th Annual General Meeting of the WLGA Council and thanked Carmarthenshire for hosting the meeting via Zoom.

Item 2: Election of Presiding Officer and Deputy Presiding Officers

2. Members were invited to elect the WLGA Presiding Officer, and four Deputy Presiding Officers for the council term 2021-22.
3. Cllr Huw David assumed the role of chair once formally elected WLGA Presiding Officer.
4. **Resolved that:**
 - 4.1 **Cllr Huw David be re-elected WLGA Presiding Officer for the 2021-22 council term.**
 - 4.2 **The following were duly elected as Deputy Presiding Officers for the Council term 2021-2022:**
 - **Councillor Jane Mudd (Labour Group);**
 - **Councillor Ray Quant MBE (Independent Group);**
 - **Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn (Plaid Cymru Group); and**
 - **Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill (Conservative Group)**

Item 3: Membership and Political Balance of the Council

5. Members were invited to confirm the membership and political balance of the WLGA for the council term 2021-22 based on the nominations submitted by local authorities in full membership, as set out below.

Surname	Name	Authority	Political Affiliation
ap GWYNN	Cllr Ellen	Ceredigion	Plaid Cymru
BEVAN	Cllr Robert	Rhondda Cynon Taf	Labour
BITHELL	Cllr David A	Wrexham	Independent
BRADBURY	Cllr Peter	Cardiff	Labour
BURNETT	Cllr Lis	Vale of Glamorgan	Labour
CLARK	Cllr Richard	Torfaen	Labour
CLEMENT-WILLIAMS	Cllr Carol	Neath Port Talbot	Labour
DANIELS	Cllr Nigel	Blaenau Gwent	Independent
DAVID	Cllr Huw	Bridgend	Labour
DAVIES	Cllr Aled	Powys	Conservative
DAVIES	Cllr Chris	Merthyr Tydfil	Independent
DAVIES	Cllr Dai	Blaenau Gwent	Independent
DOLE	Cllr Emlyn	Carmarthenshire	Plaid Cymru
EDWARDS	Cllr Goronwy	Conwy	Independent
EDWARDS	Cllr T Alan	Wrexham	Independent
ELSMORE	Cllr Susan	Cardiff	Labour
EVANS, OBE	Cllr Hugh	Denbighshire	Independent
EVANS	Cllr Linda	Carmarthenshire	Plaid Cymru
GEORGE	Cllr Nigel	Caerphilly	Labour
GIBBARD	Cllr Louise	Swansea	Labour
GOODWAY	Cllr Russell	Cardiff	Labour
GRAY	Cllr Ben	Vale of Glamorgan	Independent
GREEN	Cllr Cheryl	Bridgend	Independent Alliance rep
HARRIS	Cllr Rosemarie	Powys	Independent
HOPKINS	Cllr David	Swansea	Labour
HUNT	Cllr Anthony	Torfaen	Labour
JEAVONS	Cllr Roger	Newport	Labour
JENKINS	Cllr David M	Carmarthenshire	Plaid Cymru
JOHN	Cllr Richard	Monmouthshire	Conservative
JONES	Cllr Christine	Flintshire	Labour
JONES	Cllr Leanne	Neath Port Talbot	Labour
JONES	Cllr Sara	Monmouthshire	Conservative
LEWIS	Cllr Andrea	Swansea	Labour
LATHAM	Cllr Edward	Neath Port Talbot	Labour
LEWIS	Cllr Rhys	Rhondda Cynon Taf	Labour
LEYSHON	Cllr Christina	Rhondda Cynon Taf	Labour
MARSDEN	Cllr Phillipa	Caerphilly	Labour
McCOUBREY	Cllr Charlie	Conwy	Independent
MEDI	Cllr Llinos	Isle of Anglesey	Plaid Cymru
MERRY	Cllr Sarah	Cardiff	Labour

MEURIG	Cllr Dafydd	Gwynedd	Plaid Cymru
MICHAEL	Cllr Michael	Cardiff	Labour
MILLER	Cllr Paul	Pembrokeshire	Labour
MOORE	Cllr Neil	Vale of Glamorgan	Labour
MORGAN	Cllr Andrew	Rhondda Cynon Taf	Labour
MUDD	Cllr Jane	Newport	Labour
MULLIN	Cllr Billy	Flintshire	Labour
MYTTON	Cllr Lisa	Merthyr Tydfil	Independent
PERFECT	Cllr Michelle	Flintshire	Labour
POWELL	Cllr Rachel	Powys	Independent
PRIOR	Cllr Neil	Pembrokeshire	Independent
PRITCHARD	Cllr Mark	Wrexham	Independent
QUANT, MBE	Cllr Ray	Ceredigion	Independent
ROBERTS	Cllr Ian	Flintshire	Labour
SIENCYN	Cllr Dyfrig	Gwynedd	Plaid Cymru
SIMPSON	Cllr David	Pembrokeshire	Independent
SMITH	Cllr Nigel	Conwy	Independent
SPENCER	Cllr Mark	Newport	Labour
STENNER	Cllr Eluned	Caerphilly	Labour
STEPHENS	Cllr Mair	Carmarthenshire	Independent
STEWART	Cllr Rob	Swansea	Labour
THOMAS	Cllr Gareth	Gwynedd	Plaid Cymru
THOMAS	Cllr Huw	Cardiff	Labour
THOMAS	Cllr Mark	Swansea	Labour
THOMPSON-HILL	Cllr Julian	Denbighshire	Conservative
THORNE	Cllr Lynda	Cardiff	Labour
WEAVER	Cllr Christopher	Cardiff	Labour
WEBBER	Cllr Maureen	Rhondda Cynon Taf	Labour
WILLIAMS	Cllr Hywel	Bridgend	Labour
WILLIAMS	Cllr Ieuan	Isle of Anglesey	Independent

6. Members noted that the Labour Group holds the majority group within the Association, and based on the nominations received from local authorities in full membership, that the political balance of the WLGA for the Council term 2021-22 is as indicated below:

	Number of seats	Percentage (%)
Conservative	4	6%
Independent	20	28%
Labour	39	55%
Plaid Cymru	8	11%
Total	71	100

7. Members noted that the local authorities in full membership of the WLGA have confirmed how they will exercise their votes during the Council period 2021-2 as indicated below:

Local Authority	WLGA seats	Use of votes
Blaenau Gwent	2	One per person
Bridgend	3	One per person
Caerphilly	4	En bloc
Cardiff	8	En bloc
Carmarthenshire	4	One per person
Ceredigion	2	One per person
Conwy	3	One per person
Denbighshire	2	One per person
Flintshire	4	En bloc
Gwynedd	3	En bloc
Isle of Anglesey	2	One per person
Merthyr Tydfil	2	En bloc
Monmouthshire	2	En bloc
Neath Port Talbot	3	En bloc
Newport	3	En bloc
Pembrokeshire	3	One per person
Powys	3	One per person
Rhondda Cynon Taf	5	En bloc
Swansea	5	En bloc
Torfaen	2	En bloc
Vale of Glamorgan	3	En bloc
Wrexham	3	One per person
Total number of seats	71	

8. Resolved that:

- 8.1 The membership of the WLGA Council for the council term 2021-2022 was noted;**
- 8.2 The political balance of the WLGA Council for the council term 2021-2022 was noted;**
- 8.3 The manner in which local authorities in full membership are to express their votes for the council term 2021-2022 was noted;**
- 8.4 The WLGA Council would take account of the membership and political balance in respect of subsequent nominations and appointments.**

Item 4: Appointment of the Executive Board

- 9. Members noted the nominations by local authorities in full membership of the WLGA of members to the WLGA Executive Board for 2021-22, as set out below:

Local Authority	Nominee	Political Affiliation
Blaenau Gwent CBC	Cllr Nigel Daniels	Independent
Bridgend CBC	Cllr Huw David	Labour
Caerphilly CBC	Cllr Philippa Marsden	Labour
City & County of Cardiff	Cllr Huw Thomas	Labour
Carmarthenshire CC	Cllr Emlyn Dole	Plaid Cymru
Ceredigion CC	Cllr Ellen ap Gwynn	Plaid Cymru
Conwy CBC	Cllr Charlie McCoubrey	Independent
Denbighshire CC	Cllr Hugh Evans OBE	Independent
Flintshire CC	Cllr Ian Roberts	Labour
Gwynedd	Cllr Dyfrig Siencyn	Plaid Cymru
Isle of Anglesey CC	Cllr Llinos Medi	Plaid Cymru
Merthyr Tydfil CBC	Cllr Lisa Mytton	Independent
Monmouthshire CC	Cllr Richard John	Conservative
Neath Port Talbot CBC	Cllr Edward Latham	Labour
Newport City Council	Cllr Jane Mudd	Labour
Pembrokeshire CC	Cllr David Simpson	Independent
Powys CC	Cllr Rosemarie Harris	Independent
Rhondda Cynon Taff CBC	Cllr Andrew Morgan	Labour
City & County of Swansea	Cllr Rob Stewart	Labour
Torfaen CBC	Cllr Anthony Hunt	Labour
Vale of Glamorgan	Cllr Neil Moore	Labour
Wrexham CBC	Cllr Mark Pritchard	Independent

10. The resulting distribution of seats relating to voting members of the WLGA Executive Board for the Council term 2021-22 is:

Labour Group - 10	Independent Group - 7	Plaid Cymru - 4	Conservative Group – 1
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11. **Resolved that:**

11.1 The membership of the WLGA Executive Board for the Council term 2021-2022 was duly noted.

Item 5: Recognition of Leader

12. Council received the report setting out the WLGA constitutional position in terms of the recognition of the WLGA Leader.
13. Section 10 of the WLGA Constitution stipulates that the Leader of the largest political party shall be known as the Leader of the Association. Cllr Andrew

Morgan, Leader of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council, is the Leader of the Labour Group which is currently the largest political group.

14. Cllr Morgan thanked members for their continued support and work during the pandemic and acknowledged the cross party working and collaboration of members and during such a difficult time. He highlighted that all members views are important and reflected to the Welsh Government during meetings.
15. Cllr Morgan noted the close relationship and engagement that has developed during the pandemic and asked that all spokespersons and members continue to play an active role in influencing Welsh Government decisions in support of local government going forward.
16. WLGA Deputy Leader, Councillor Rob Stewart thanked Cllr Morgan for his dedication, hard work and leadership of the WLGA in the most difficult of time. Cllr Stewart also acknowledged the close relationship with Welsh Government that Cllr Morgan has developed.
17. **Resolved that:**

17.1 Members recognised Councillor Andrew Morgan (Rhondda Cynon Taf), Leader of the WLGA Labour Group, as the Leader of the Association for the council term 2021-2022.

Item 6: Appointment of Deputy Leader and Spokespersons

18. Members received the report in relation to the appointment of Spokespersons, Deputy Spokespersons and Senior Office holders to serve until the next Annual General Meeting; further nominations were taken in the meeting.

19. Resolved that:

- 19.1 Members confirmed the appointment of Councillor Rob Stewart as Deputy Leader of the Association for the council term 2021-2022; and**
- 19.2 Members confirmed those members who would fulfil the roles of Spokespersons and Deputy Spokespersons for the council term 2021-2022 as set out in the following table:**

Policy Area	Spokesperson 2021/22	Deputy Spokesperson 2021/22
Community Safety	Cllr Neil Moore (Vale of Glamorgan) - Labour	Cllr Nigel Smith (Conwy) – Independent Armed Forces - Cllr Maureen Webber (RCT) – Labour

Culture, Sport & Tourism	Cllr Huw Thomas (Cardiff) - Labour	Cllr Peter Hughes Griffiths (Carmarthenshire) – Plaid Cymru
Development Control & Planning	Cllr David Jenkins (Carmarthenshire) - Plaid Cymru	Cllr Ben Gray (Vale of Glamorgan) - Independent
Digital and Innovation	Cllr Jane Mudd (Newport) Labour	Cllr Neil Prior (Pembs) - Independent Cllr Clive Davies (Ceredigion) – Plaid Cymru
UK Intergovernmental Relations & Levelling Up	Cllr Richard John (Monmouthshire) Conservative	
Economic Development, Inward Investment & Energy	Cllr Rob Stewart (Swansea) - Labour	Cllr Paul Miller (Pembrokeshire) - Labour Cllr Rob Bevan (Rhondda Cynon Taf) - Labour Cllr Ellen ap Gwynn (Ceredigion) - Plaid Cymru Cllr Goronwy Edwards (Conwy) - Independent
Education	Cllr Ian Roberts (Flintshire) - Labour	Cllr Ellen ap Gwynn (Ceredigion) Plaid Cymru
Employability & Skills	Cllr Emlyn Dole (Carmarthenshire) - Plaid Cymru	Cllr Julian Thompson Hill (Denbighshire) - Conservative
Equalities, Anti-Poverty & Migration	Cllr Jane Mudd (Newport) - Labour	Cllr Susan Elsmore (Cardiff) - Labour Cllr Louise Gibbard (Swansea) – Labour Cllr Chris Davies (Merthyr) - Independent Cllr Nia Jeffreys (Gwynedd) – Plaid Cymru
Finance & Welfare Reform	Cllr Anthony Hunt (Torfaen) - Labour	Cllr Carol Clement-Williams (Neath Port Talbot) – Labour
Future Generations & Wellbeing	Cllr Llinos Medi (Isle of Anglesey) - Plaid Cymru	Cllr Ray Quant MBE (Ceredigion) - Independent
Health & Social Care	Cllr Huw David (Bridgend) – Labour	Adults: Cllr Susan Elsmore (Cardiff) - Labour Children: Cllr Llinos Medi (Isle of Anglesey) - Plaid Cymru
Housing	Cllr Andrea Lewis (Swansea) – Labour	Cllr Nigel Smith (Conwy) - Independent
Improvement	Cllr Hugh Evans OBE (Denbighshire) - Independent	Cllr Neil Prior (Pembrokeshire) – Independent

Mental Health & Wellbeing	Cllr Lis Burnett (Vale of Glamorgan) – Labour	Cllr Christine Jones (Flintshire) – Labour Cllr Lisa Mytton (Merthyr) – Independent
Public Health & Regulatory Services	Cllr Dafydd Meurig (Gwynedd) – Plaid Cymru <i>in joint role with</i> Cllr Neil Moore (Vale of Glamorgan) – Labour	
Rural Affairs	Cllr Rosemarie Harris (Powys) – Independent <i>in joint role with</i> Cllr Dyfrig Siencyn (Gwynedd) – Plaid Cymru	Cllr Sara Jones (Monmouthshire) – Conservative
Transport, Environment & Climate Change	Cllr Andrew Morgan (Rhondda Cynon Taf) – Labour	Transport infrastructure Cllr Edward Latham (Neath Port Talbot) – Labour Waste, Coastal Defences & Flooding Cllr Ray Quant MBE (Ceredigion) – Independent
Welsh Language	Cllr Ellen ap Gwynn (Ceredigion) – Plaid Cymru	
Workforce	Cllr Philippa Marsden (Caerphilly) – Labour	Cllr Maureen Webber (Rhondda Cynon Taf) – Labour
WLGA Representative on LGA Executive Advisory Board	Cllr Rob Stewart (Swansea) – Labour	Substitute – Cllr Neil Prior (Pembrokeshire) – Independent

Item 7: Appointment of Management Sub Committee

20. Members were invited to determine the membership of Management Sub Committee for the period up to the 2022 WLGA Annual General Meeting in accordance with paragraph 11 of the WLGA Constitution, taking particular account of the representation required from all political groups.

21. Resolved that:

21.1 Members agreed the following membership for the Management Sub Committee for the Council term 2021-2022.

Cllr Huw David	Presiding Officer (Labour)	Bridgend
Cllr Jane Mudd	Deputy Presiding Officer (Labour)	Newport
Cllr Ray Quant MBE	Deputy Presiding Officer (Independent)	Ceredigion
Cllr Dyfrig Siencyn	Deputy Presiding Officer (Plaid Cymru)	Gwynedd
Cllr Julian Thompson-Hill	Deputy Presiding Officer (Conservative)	Denbighshire

Cllr Andrew Morgan	WLGA Leader, Leader of the Labour Group	Rhondda Cynon Taf
Cllr Rob Stewart	WLGA Deputy Leader	Swansea
Cllr Hugh Evans OBE	Leader of the Independent Group	Denbighshire
Cllr Emlyn Dole	Leader of the Plaid Cymru Group	Carmarthenshire
Cllr Richard John	Leader of the Conservative Group	Monmouthshire
Cllr Phillipa Marsden	Labour Group	Caerphilly
Cllr Ian Roberts	Labour Group	Flintshire
Cllr Huw Thomas	Labour Group	Cardiff

Item 8: Appointment of the Chair and Members of the Audit Committee

22. Members were invited to determine the membership and Chair of the WLGA Audit Committee for the council term 2021-2022.

23. **Resolved that:**

23.1 Members agreed the following membership for the Audit Committee for the Council term 2021-2022 with Cllr Linda Evans (Plaid Cymru) duly elected as Chair:

Chair: Cllr Linda Evans, Carmarthenshire (Plaid Cymru)
 Cllr Christopher Weaver, Cardiff (Labour)
 Cllr Rosemarie Harris, Powys (Independent)
 Cllr Aled Davies, Powys (Conservative)
 Cllr Maureen Webber, Rhondda Cynon Taf (Labour)

Substitutes:

Cllr Carol Clement-Williams, Neath Port Talbot (Labour)
 Cllr Billy Mullin, Flintshire (Labour)

Item 9: Nominations to Partnership Council

24. Council members were invited to nominate members to serve on the Partnership Council for Wales, a statutory body established under Section 72 of the Government of Wales Act (2006). The Partnership Council is intended to promote joint working and co-operation between Welsh Government and local government.

25. **Resolved that:**

25.1 Members agreed that all leaders be nominated as WLGA Members of Partnership Council.

Item 10: Nominations to the Finance Sub-Group

26. Council members were invited to nominate members to serve on the Finance Sub-Group.

27. Resolved that:

30.1 The following members were nominated to serve on the Finance Sub -Group for the council term 2021-2022:

- Councillor Andrew Morgan, Leader of the WLGA, Rhondda Cynon Taf (Labour)
- Councillor Rob Stewart, Deputy Leader of the WLGA, Swansea (Labour)
- Councillor Anthony Hunt, WLGA Spokesperson for Finance, Torfaen (Labour)
- Councillor Carol Clement-Williams, Deputy Spokesperson for Finance, Neath Port Talbot (Labour)
- Councillor Paul Miller, Pembrokeshire (Labour)
- Councillor Aled Davies, Powys (Conservative)
- Councillor Mark Pritchard, Wrexham (Independent)
- Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn, Gwynedd (Plaid Cymru)

Item 11: Appointments to the Board of Data Cymru

28. Members were invited to appoint eight members to serve on the Data Cymru Board for the twelve-month period commencing with the Board's Annual Meeting.

29. Resolved that:

29.1 The following members were appointed to the Data Cymru Board for 2021-2022.

- Councillor Colin Mann, Caerphilly (Plaid Cymru)
- Councillor Geraint Hopkins, Rhondda Cynon Taf (Labour)
- Councillor Richard Clark, Torfaen (Labour)
- Councillor Jane Mudd, Newport (Labour)
- Councillor Neil Prior, Pembrokeshire (Independent)
- Councillor Nigel Smith, Conwy (Independent)
- Councillor Mair Stephens, Carmarthenshire (Independent)
- Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill (Conservative)

Company Secretary: Dr Chris Llewelyn

Item 12: WLGA representation on Outside Bodies

30. Council members were invited to nominate members to serve on Outside Bodies.

31. Resolved that:

- 31.1 The following members were nominated to sit of the Outside Bodies detailed as below.**
- 31.2 WLGA to ask that Cllr Llinos Medi become an additional representative on the 2014-2020 Ireland Wales Cooperation Programme**
- 31.3 Disability Sport Forum to be approached and asked to accept and additional WLGA representative Cllr Sara Jones.**

Body:	Positions:	WLGA Representative(s):
POLICY AREA: REGENERATION & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT		
Wales Biodiversity Partnership	1	Cllr Peter Jones (Swansea) - Lab Cllr Alun Williams (Ceredigion) – PC
POLICY AREA: EUROPEAN & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS		
'CLARE' - Congress of Local Authorities and Regions, Congress, Council of Europe	1	Cllr Hazel Evans (Carmarthenshire) - PC
Committee of the Regions Contact Group	1	Cllr Rob Stewart (Swansea) - Lab
	+ Alt	Cllr Anthony Hunt (Torfaen) - Lab
'CEMR' – Council of European Municipalities and Regions	1	Cllr Linda Evans (Carmarthenshire) - PC
All Wales European Structural & Investment Funds 2014-2020 Programme Monitoring Committee	1	Cllr Rob Stewart (Swansea) - Lab
	+ Officer	Cllr Dyfrig Siencyn (Gwynedd) - PC Lowri Gwilym (WLGA)
2014-2020 Ireland Wales Cooperation Programme	2	Cllr Llinos Medi (Anglesey) - PC
		SWW: Cllr Phil Baker (Pembs) - N/A
		NWW: Cllr Ronnie Hughes (Conwy) - Lab
POLICY AREA: LIFELONG LEARNING, LEISURE & INFORMATION		

Cambrian Educational Foundation for Deaf Children	1	Cllr Ellen ap Gwynn (Ceredigion) - PC
Cardiff University Court of Governors	5	Cllr Ross Whiting (Caerphilly) - Lab Cllr Sarah Merry (Cardiff) - Lab Cllr Susan Elsmore (Cardiff) – Lab Cllr Huw Thomas (Cardiff) - Lab VACANCY
Play Wales Board of Trustees	1 + Officer	Cllr Huw David (Bridgend) – Lab Catherine Davies (WLGA)
'WJEC' – Welsh Joint Education Committee	'Gwent' 'Cwm Taf' 'North' 'M&W' C'ff+Vale' 'W'bay'	Ross Whiting, (Caerphilly) - Lab Cllr Joy Rosser (RCT) - Lab Cllr Cemlyn Willimas (Gwynedd) - PC Cllr Edward Thomas (Carmarthenshire) Ind Cllr Lis Burnett, Vale of Glamorgan - Lab Cllr Alan Lockyer (NPT) - Lab
British Board of Film Classification	1	Cllr Huw Thomas (Cardiff) - Lab
Disability Sport Forum	1	Cllr Leanne Jones (NPT) – Lab Cllr Sara Jones (Monmouthshire) - Con
National Eisteddfod Court	4 + Officer	Cllr Huw Thomas (Cardiff) – Lab Cllr Arwyn Woolcock (NPT) – Lab Cllr Ellen ap Gwynn (Ceredigion) – PC Cllr Aled Davies (Powys) – Cons Cllr Goronwy Edwards (Conwy) - Ind Dr Chris Llewelyn (WLGA)
National Library of Wales Advisory Board	1 + Officer	Cllr Huw Thomas (Cardiff) - Lab Sharon Davies (WLGA)
Urdd Eisteddfod	Officer	Dr Chris Llewelyn (WLGA)
POLICY AREA: EMPLOYMENT		
Fire National Joint Council (NJC)	1	Cllr Philippa Marsden (Caerphilly) – Lab

	+ Sub	Cllr Maureen Webber (RCT) - Lab
	+ Officer	Huw Jakeway
National Joint Council (NJC) for Brigade Managers of Local Authority Fire and Rescue Services	1	Cllr Philippa Marsden (Caerphilly) – Lab
	+ Sub	Cllr Maureen Webber (RCT) - Lab
Joint National Committee (JNC) for Coroners	1	Cllr Philippa Marsden (Caerphilly) – Lab
	+ Sub	Cllr Maureen Webber (RCT) – Lab
Joint National Committee (JNC) Local Government Services	1	Cllr Philippa Marsden (Caerphilly) – Lab
	+ Sub	Cllr Maureen Webber (RCT) – Lab
Joint National Committee (JNC) for Craftworkers	1	Cllr Philippa Marsden (Caerphilly) – Lab
	+ Sub	Cllr Maureen Webber (RCT) – Lab
'NARE' – National Association of Regional Employments appointed by the Joint Council for Wales	1	Cllr Philippa Marsden (Caerphilly) – Lab
	+ Sub	Cllr Maureen Webber (RCT) - Lab
'CEEP' appointed by the Joint Council for Wales	2	Cllr Philippa Marsden (Caerphilly) – Lab
		Cllr Maureen Webber (RCT) - Lab
Joint National Committee (JNC) for CEOs	1	Cllr Philippa Marsden (Caerphilly) – Lab
	+ Sub	Cllr Maureen Webber (RCT) - Lab
Joint National Committee (JNC) for Youth & Community Workers	2	Cllr Philippa Marsden (Newport) – Lab
		Cllr Ellen ap Gwynn (Ceredigion) – PC
'NEOST' - National Employers Organisation for School Teachers	1	Cllr Philippa Marsden (Caerphilly) – Lab
	+ Sub	Cllr Ellen ap Gwynn (Ceredigion) – PC
Soulbury Committee	1	Cllr Philippa Marsden (Caerphilly) – Lab
	+ Sub	Cllr Ellen ap Gwynn (Ceredigion) – PC
POLICY AREA: TRANSPORT		
Public Transport Information (PTI) Cymru	1 (sharing)	SW: Cllr Andrew Whitcombe (Caerphilly) - Lab
		SW: Cllr Philip Evans JP (Conwy) – Ind
POLICY AREA: CORPORATE		

LGA Executive	1	Cllr Rob Stewart (Swansea) – Lab
	+ Sub	Cllr Neil Prior (Pembrokeshire) – Ind
		*NB Cllr Rosemarie Harris (Powys) is an LGA Independent Group member
Data Cymru Board	8	<i>See separate report to the WLGA Council Annual General Meeting 25/6/21</i>
Partnership Council for Wales	22	<i>See separate report to the WLGA Council Annual General Meeting 25/6/21</i>
Finance Sub Group	8	<i>See separate report to the WLGA Council Annual General Meeting 25/6/21</i>
POLICY AREA: FINANCE		
Scheme Advisory Board (Local Government Pension Scheme)	1	Cllr Clive Lloyd (Swansea) - Lab
The Local Authorities Mutual Investment Trust (LAMIT) & The Public Sector Deposit Fund (PSDF)	1	Cllr Carol Clement-Williams - Lab

Item 13: WLGA Annual Report 2020-21

32. The Chief Executive presented the WLGA Annual Report for 2020-21 to Council reflecting the work of the Association during the pandemic and reported that despite only have the last AGM in November 2020 the intention in holding the AGM now, is to more back to a more regular sequence of meetings.
33. He reflected that the last 16 months have been like no other, not only for the world but also for local government in Wales. He noted that the 1st of April 2021 marked the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the twenty-two local authorities in Wales and the WLGA and which while at any other time it would be a cause for celebration, the Annual Report has tried to recognise the achievements and contribution of authorities in supporting their communities during such a difficult time. He also noted the leadership provided by authorities throughout the pandemic.
34. He also referred to the First Minister's and Minister for Finance and Local Governments comments earlier in the meeting acknowledging the close relationship and partnership between the Welsh Government and local government and the pace and urgency at which authorities have reacted throughout the pandemic.

35. Chris reflected on the period of austerity and highlighted particularly how badly public protection services have been affected due to funding cuts but noted that the pandemic has shown how important these services are in keeping everyone safe.
36. Chris acknowledged the hard work of elected members, the local government workforce and WLGA staff during the pandemic. He reported that the Association always aims to add value to the work of authorities and hoped that authorities saw the benefits of being members of the Association.
37. Cllr Morgan, WLGA Leader, thanked the WLGA staff members for all their work over the last 16 months.

38. Resolved that:

38.1 Members noted the WLGA's Annual Report for 2020-21.

Item 14: WLGA Business Plan 2021-22

39. The Chief Executive presented the WLGA Business Plan for 2021-22 to Council and reported that the plan is based on the WLGA Corporate Strategy. It was also noted that the Improvement Grant has restored to allow the Association to work in a formal way with improvement process. The WLGA commitment to prioritising subsidiarity was also stressed as local government is the tier of government that delivers democratic accountability.
40. The Chief Executive said that while it is unclear how events will unfold over the coming months in relation to the pandemic, the WLGA will continue to support authorities with the challenges of Covid-19 and the recovery process. He also noted the Welsh Government's Programme and how understanding the role and effect it would have on authorities in the coming years was important.

41. Resolved that:

41.1 Members noted and supported the WLGA Business Plan for 2021-202.

Item 15: Annual Report of the WLGA Audit Committee 2019-20

42. Members received the Annual Report of the WLGA Audit Committee for 2019-2020.

43. The Presiding Officer thanked the Chair and Committee for their work over the course of the year.

44. **Resolved that:**

44.1 Members endorsed the Annual Report of the WLGA Audit Committee for 2019-20.

Item 16: WLGA Welsh Language Standards Annual Report 2019-20

45. Members received the WLGA Welsh Language Standards Annual Report 2019-20 for approval.

46. Cllr ap Gwynn, WLGA Welsh Language spokesperson, thanked WLGA Officers for their work on the report. It was noted that the next years report for 2020-21 would need to reflect the shortcomings of the translation services at virtual meetings during the pandemic.

47. **Resolved that:**

47.1 Members approved the WLGA Welsh Language Standards Annual Report 2019-20

Item 17: WLGA Members' Allowances Scheme

48. An en-block declaration of personal interests was provided and several members separately declared a personal interest.

49. The WLGA Members' Allowances Scheme to be noted by members, decisions were taken at the AGM in November 2020.

50. **Resolved that:**

50.1 Members noted the WLGA Members' Allowances Scheme.

Item 18: Schedule of Political Meetings

51. Council received a report setting out a proposed schedule of WLGA political meetings in 2021-22.

52. **Resolved that:**

52:1 Members approved the following schedule of WLGA political meetings for 2021-22:

Month	Date	WLGA Meeting
July	16/07/21	Executive Board
August		
September	24/09/21	Executive Board
October	07/10/21	Audit Committee
	22/10/21	Executive Board
November	26/11/21	WLGA Council
December	16/12/21	Management Sub-Committee
January	28/01/22	Executive Board
February	25/02/22	Management Sub-Committee
March	25/03/22	WLGA Council
April	07/04/22	Audit Committee
May	05/05/22	Local Government Elections
	To be confirmed	Leaders' Introductory Meeting
June	24/06/22	WLGA Council & AGM

BUSINESS MEETING

Item 19: Minutes of WLGA Meetings

53. Members received the draft minutes of the WLGA Council meeting held 25th November 2019 and the minutes of the WLGA Audit Committee meeting held 9th April 2020.

54. Resolved that:

54.1 The minutes of the WLGA Council meeting held 26th March 2021 were approved.

54.2 The minutes of the WLGA Audit Committee meeting held 15th April 2021 were noted.

54.3 The minutes of the WLGA Management Sub-Committee held 23rd April 2021 were noted.

16 July 2021

LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING FORMULA

Purpose

1. This paper suggests options for reviewing the funding formula following the presentation that was made at the May Executive Board.

Background

2. At the last meeting, Leaders were given a presentation on the funding formula as part of a two-stage process to:
 - engage Leaders in the finance formula and bring them up to a common understanding; and,
 - suggest ways forward in relation to a possible review.
3. Among the actions arising from the last Executive Board was to bring a paper reflecting discussions to this meeting. During discussion at the last meeting several concerns were raised about the formula.
 - The annual range is controversial – creating winners and losers every year.
 - It is not clear how the changes happen; the explanations can be overly complex and counter intuitive.
 - The formula is perceived as a 'statistical maze': there are some 4,000 data points used in the allocations.
 - Although much of the data is updated annually, some datasets are out of date.
 - Issues of allocation are sometimes conflated with the size of the pot which is more political.
 - Is a review just to update using the current methodology or looking for a 'bottom up' approach?
4. There was clearly a view that a more fundamental review was needed beyond the scope of the Distribution Sub Group arrangements (the status of each of formulae and when they were last reviewed is usefully summarised in the table at the annex). Some Leaders thought it was timely for the WLGA to grasp this, although there was a recognition of capacity constraints both with the civil service and local government official/officer pools.
5. It would be important, at the outset of any review, to establish robust governance arrangements which included local government as well as any Welsh

Government policy interests. An early stage would be to clearly define what we want the formula to do and to have a set of test criteria against which any new formula can be compared, to assess whether it is better than the current model and whether it is considered suitable for implementation. Adopting a set of principles at the outset would help.

Risks

6. It is worth noting that the funding formula is not in the programme for government, but the reform of local taxation is. The current formula includes an equalisation for locally generated taxation and the reality is that whatever distribution mechanism may replace it, there will have to be a similar equalisation for any new form of local taxation. How one plays into the other will be a key risk.
7. Furthermore, none of the options are likely to produce immediate results, the last review in 1999-00 took a year to conclude, and the recommendations took another 4 years to implement (and potentially longer depending on your point of view!).
8. Finally, the biggest risk is that any review of the formula will undoubtedly result in extreme financial turbulence. It would therefore be wise to establish stability as one of the overriding principles at the outset.

Next Steps

9. We think there are 3 possible approaches.
 - Allowing the work of the DSG to continue – this is almost a status quo scenario. This is not likely to produce a satisfactory outcome in terms of Leaders' last discussion where there was an appetite for something more fundamental.
 - Welsh Government-led review - ask the finance minister to commence an immediate review.
 - Jointly-led review – To jointly lead a review with the Welsh Government. This could be done in one of two ways. The first might follow the route of the last review in 2000 which was jointly commissioned by WLGA/Wales Office from an external partnership. The second might follow similar lines but we look to provide a stronger local government steer by augmenting capacity shortfall from the local government finance community.
10. The position of the Welsh Government will obviously be a key factor. Ministers lay the Local Government Finance Report annually before the Senedd. They may be reticent about any dramatic overhaul of the formula as the ultimate accountability lies with them. It is possible they may look at a larger range of options than the ones set out above and this may be resource dependent.

Recommendations

11. Members are recommended to:

- 11.1 note the contents of the paper; and,
- 11.2 explore the next steps at para 8.

Report Cleared by: Cllr Anthony Hunt & Cllr Carol Clement-Williams

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Summary of IBA Reviews

	Service Description	2021-22 Final Services IBA totals	Formula last reviewed (Rw) or updated (Uptd)	Multi-level regression	OLS regression	Subjective	Single indicator / client group
Education	Primary school teaching	1,168,587,976	Uptd 2003	X			
	Secondary school teaching	935,622,323	Uptd 2003	X			
	Special education	288,600,555	Rw 2006			X	
	Nursery and primary school transport	35,486,401	Uptd 2001		X		
	Secondary school transport services	62,985,889	Uptd 2001		X		
	School meals	61,011,928	Rw 2012		X		
	Adult and continuing education	6,156,246	Uptd 2001			X	
	Adult and continuing education transport	10,370,398	Rw 2005			X	
	Youth services	18,870,762	Uptd 2000			X	
	Education administration	2,926,049	n/a				X
Social Services	Children and young persons (PSS)	554,986,252	Uptd 2016	X			
	Younger adults' care	604,019,400	Uptd 2016	X			
	Older adults' care	651,924,493	Uptd 2016	X			
	WILG	6,750,000	n/a				X
	NHS-funded nursing care	1,330,000	n/a	X			
	PSS administration	5,281,118	n/a				X
Roads & Transport	Road maintenance	132,760,186	Uptd 2006		X		
	Street lighting	32,683,870	Rw 2012				X
	Public transport revenue support	16,842,351	Rw 2005		X		
	Concessionary fares	10,257,802	Rw 2004			X	
	Road safety education and safe routes	4,251,693	Uptd 2010			X	
Fire	Fire service	152,229,194	Rw 2000				X
Other Services	Electoral registration	6,710,282	Updt 2020				X
	Recreation	139,729,041	Rw 2005			X	
	Library services	52,723,218	unknown				X
	Cultural services	34,268,004	Rw 2005		X		
	Economic development	21,929,408	Uptd 2007		X		
	Cemeteries and crematoria	-2,602,336	Uptd 2000				X
	Coast protection	1,751,491	unknown				X
	Consumer protection	14,430,836	Uptd 2013			X	
	Planning	29,092,826	Rw 2001			X	
	Street Cleansing	67,266,665	Uptd 2013			X	
	Food safety	13,270,903	Rw 2001			X	
	Other environmental health	40,405,121	Rw 2005			X	
	Refuse collection	203,595,426	Rw 2006		X		
	Refuse disposal	95,018,820	unknown				X
	Non HRA housing	58,835,251	Uptd 2011			X	
	Council tax administration	47,279,620	unknown				X
	Drainage	1,240,895	unknown				X
	National parks	3,175,332	unknown				X
	Other services	85,141,901	Rw 2000				X
	General administration	94,332,892	n/a				X
	CTRS	4,770,000	n/a				X
DG	Deprivation Grant	22,000,000	Rw 2010			X	
CTRS	Council Tax Reduction Schemes	244,000,000	Rw 2015				X
Debt Financing	Highways Improvement	12,000,000	n/a				X
	LGBI 21C Schools	10,000,000	n/a				X
	Private Finance Initiative	24,517,532	n/a				X
	CRMP	1,295,890	n/a				X
	Debt Financing	328,617,521	unknown				
Total Wales SSA		6,418,731,426					

16th July 2021

PROGRAMME FOR GOVERNMENT 2021-2026 AND LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME**Purpose**

1. To update members on the publication of the new Welsh Government's Programme for Government and the Legislative Programme.

Background

2. The Welsh Government published its 2021-2026 Programme for Government on 17 June 2021. It is comprised of almost 100 specific areas of activity, some will rest with the First Minister and the full Cabinet, and some remain individual Ministerial responsibilities.
3. The Counsel General has also confirmed (6th July) the Welsh Government's Legislative Programme for the next 12 months, which includes:
 - Tertiary Education and Research Bill
 - Agriculture Bill
 - Social Partnership and Public Procurement Bill.
 - A Bill to enable changes to devolved taxes to respond quickly to unexpected events which could have a significant impact on Welsh revenues.
 - A Consolidation Bill, to simplify the law relating to listed buildings and the historic environment.
4. There will be wider secondary legislation during the next 12 months, including regulations around CJs and some electoral matters, as the Welsh Government is committed to improving participation in the 2022 local elections.
5. Introducing the new programme, the First Minister has said that "*it is founded on the distinctively Welsh values of community, equality and social justice. It puts collaboration ahead of competition, showing how we will act to maximise fairness for all and eliminate inequality at every level of society.*"
6. There are several areas in the Programme for Government the WLGA would support, and many reflect the priorities within the WLGA's Manifesto for Localism. These include:
 - Paying care workers the real minimum wage

- Strengthening the autonomy of local government
 - Introduction of an extended producer responsibility scheme
 - Improving building safety
 - Continued investment in the learning environment of community schools
 - The emphasis on building new social housing, decarbonisation and a green recovery.
7. Others however require further detail or clarification; some may impact on local government services or may have significant resource implications. Programme for Government priorities are subject to ongoing bilateral discussions between WLGA Spokespersons and Ministers and between officials.
8. Leaders have had an initial discussion about the Programme for Government with the Minister for Finance and Local Government at Partnership Council on 7th July. The Minister stated that local government would be key to shaping the delivery of the Programme, an approach which was welcomed by the Leader.
9. Many of the Programme's priorities will have an impact on or require involvement from local authorities, however, the some of the key priorities include:

Protect, re-build and develop our services for vulnerable people

- Reform primary care, bringing together GP services with pharmacy, therapy, housing, social care, mental health, community and third sector.
- Pay care workers the real living wage
- explore radical reform of current services for looked after children and care leavers
- Fund regional residential services for children with complex needs ensuring their needs are met as close to home as possible and in Wales wherever practicable.

Build an economy based on the principles of fair work, sustainability and the industries and services of the future

- Deliver the Young Persons Guarantee, giving everyone under 25 the offer of work, education, training, or self- employment.
- Create 125,000 all-age apprenticeships.
- Develop a Tidal Lagoon Challenge and support ideas that can make Wales a world centre of emerging tidal technologies.
- Launch a new 10-year Wales Infrastructure Investment Plan for a zero-carbon economy

- Create a modern legislative basis for transport in Wales and lift the ban on local authorities setting up new municipal bus companies.

Embed our response to the climate and nature emergency in everything we do

- Legislate to abolish the use of more commonly littered, single use plastics
- Introduce an extended producer responsibility scheme to incentivise waste reduction by businesses.
- Introduce legislation to deal with the legacy of centuries of mining and ensure coal tip safety; strengthening local authority powers to protect the public and the environment.

Continue our long-term programme of education reform, and ensure educational inequalities narrow and standards rise

- Explore reform of the school day and the school year.
- Invest in the learning environment of community schools, co-locating key services,
- Fund up to 1800 additional tutoring staff in our schools.
- Continue to meet the rise in demand for Free School Meals resulting from the pandemic and review the eligibility criteria, extending entitlement as far as resources allow.

Celebrate diversity and move to eliminate inequality in all its forms

- Pilot an approach to the Basic Income.
- Explore legislation to address pay gaps based on gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, disability, and other forms of discrimination.
- Implement targets around Gender Budgeting.

Push forward towards 1m Welsh speakers, and enable our tourism, sports and arts industries to thrive

- Establish a National Music Service.
- Consult on legislation permitting local authorities to raise a tourism levy.
- Legislate to strengthen and increase our Welsh language education provision.

Make our cities, towns and villages even better places to live and work

- Build 20,000 new low carbon social homes for rent.
- Fundamentally reform homelessness services to focus on prevention and rapid rehousing.
- Improve building safety so that people feel safe and secure in their homes.

- Explore where services and contracts can sustainably and affordably be brought back into a strengthened public sector

Lead Wales in a national civic conversation about our constitutional future, and give our country the strongest possible presence on the world stage

- Establish an independent, standing commission to consider the constitutional future of Wales. – the First Minister confirmed at the AGM that this will cover local democracy and local government and that local government will be engaged in the process
- Seek to reform council tax to ensure a fairer system for all.
- Reform local government elections to reduce the democratic deficit.

Other matters from Manifesto

- Strengthen the autonomy and effectiveness of local government to make them more successful in delivering services.
- Reduce the administrative burden on local authorities.
- Change the performance framework for local government to better enable innovation, transparency, and local ownership.

10. Further analysis of the Programme for Government and its impact on local government will be undertaken as further detail becomes available.

Recommendation

11. Members are asked to note the contents of the report.

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ANNEX A

WELSH GOVERNMENT AND SHADOW CABINETS

Welsh Labour Government

- First Minister - Mark Drakeford
- Counsel General and Minister for the Constitution - Mick Antoniw
- Minister for Finance and Local Government - Rebecca Evans
- Economy Minister - Vaughan Gething
- Deputy Minister for Arts and Sport, and Chief Whip - Dawn Bowden
- Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd - Lesley Griffiths
- Minister for Social Justice - Jane Hutt
- Deputy Minister for Social Partnership - Hannah Blythyn
- Minister for Climate Change - Julie James
- Deputy Minister for Climate Change - Lee Waters
- Minister for Education and the Welsh Language - Jeremy Miles
- Minister for Health and Social Services - Eluned Morgan
- Deputy Minister for Social Services - Julie Morgan
- Deputy Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing - Lynne Neagle

Welsh Conservatives

- Welsh Conservative leader – Andrew RT Davies
- The Constitution and North Wales – Darren Millar
- Equalities – Altaf Hussain
- Climate Change – Janet Finch-Saunders
- Culture, Tourism and Sport – Tom Giffard
- Economy – Paul Davies
- Education – Laura Jones
- Finance – Peter Fox
- Health – Russell George
- Local Government – Sam Rowlands

- Mental Health, Wellbeing and Mid Wales – James Evans
- Rural Affairs and Welsh Language – Samuel Kurtz
- Social Justice and Shadow Counsel General – Mark Isherwood
- Social Partnership – Joel James
- Social Services – Gareth Davies
- Transport and Technology – Natasha Asghar

Plaid Cymru

- Leader - Adam Price
- Education and the Welsh Language, Children and Young People - Sian Gwenllian
- Health and Social Care - Rhun ap Iorwerth
- Social Justice and Equalities - Sioned Williams
- Finance and Local Government - Llyr Huws Gruffydd
- Economy - Luke Fletcher
- Climate Change, Energy and Transport - Delyth Jewell
- Agriculture and Rural Affairs - Cefin Campbell
- Housing and Planning - Mabon ap Gwynfor
- Culture, Sport and International Affairs - Heledd Fychan
- Constitution and Justice - Rhys ab Owen
- Communities and Older People - Peredur Owen Griffiths

Welsh Liberal Democrats (Ungrouped)

- Jane Dodds

ANNEX B

SENEDD COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP 2021

Local Government and Housing

- John Griffiths (Welsh Labour) *Chair*
- Alun Davies (Welsh Labour)
- Carolyn Thomas (Welsh Labour)
- Joel James (Welsh Conservatives)
- Sam Rowlands (Welsh Conservatives)
- Mabon ap Gwynfor (Plaid Cymru)

Finance

- Peredur Owen Griffiths (Plaid Cymru) *Chair*
- Mike Hedges (Welsh Labour)
- Rhianon Passmore (Welsh Labour)
- Peter Fox (Welsh Conservatives)

Legislation, Justice and Constitution

- Huw Irranca-Davies (Welsh Labour) *Chair*
- Jane Bryant (Welsh Labour)
- Peter Fox (Welsh Conservatives)
- Rhys ab Owen (Plaid Cymru)

Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs

- Paul Davies (Welsh Conservatives) *Chair*
- Hefin David (Welsh Labour)
- Vikki Howells (Welsh Labour)
- Sarah Murphy (Welsh Labour)
- Samuel Kurtz (Welsh Conservatives)
- Luke Fletcher (Plaid Cymru)

Equality and Social Justice

- Jenny Rathbone (Welsh Labour) *Chair*
- Sarah Murphy (Welsh Labour)
- Ken Skates (Welsh Labour)
- Altaf Hussain (Welsh Conservatives)
- Sioned Williams (Plaid Cymru)
- Jane Dodds (Welsh Liberal Democrat)

Children, Young People and Education

- Jane Bryant (Welsh Labour) *Chair*
- Ken Skates (Welsh Labour)
- Buffy Williams (Welsh Labour)
- Laura Anne Jones (Welsh Conservatives)
- James Evans (Welsh Conservatives)
- Siân Gwenllïan (Plaid Cymru)

Health and Social Care

- Russell George (Welsh Conservatives) *Chair*
- Mike Hedges (Welsh Labour)
- Jack Sargeant (Welsh Labour)
- Joyce Watson (Welsh Labour)
- Gareth Davies (Welsh Conservatives)
- Rhun ap Iorwerth (Plaid Cymru)

Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure

- Llyr Gruffydd (Plaid Cymru) *Chair*
- Huw Irranca-Davies (Welsh Labour)
- Jenny Rathbone (Welsh Labour)
- Joyce Watson (Welsh Labour)
- Janet Finch-Saunders (Welsh Conservatives)
- Delyth Jewell (Plaid Cymru)

Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport and International Relations

- Delyth Jewell (Plaid Cymru) *Chair*
- Hefin David (Welsh Labour)
- Alun Davies (Welsh Labour)
- Carolyn Thomas (Welsh Labour)
- Tom Giffard (Welsh Conservatives)
- Heledd Fychan (Plaid Cymru)

Public Accounts and Public Administration

- Mark Isherwood (Welsh Conservatives) *Chair*
- Mike Hedges (Welsh Labour)
- Rhianon Passmore (Welsh Labour)
- Natasha Asghar (Welsh Conservatives)
- Cefin Campbell (Plaid Cymru)

16th July 2021

DECARBONISATION – LOCAL AUTHORITY STRATEGIC COMMITMENTS AND ACTIONS**Purpose**

1. To consider and build on the recent report to Partnership Council which identified potential strategic commitments and actions by local authorities to contribute towards meeting the target of a net zero carbon public sector by 2030.

Background

2. At the Partnership Council meeting on 7th July, Leaders considered a progress report (attached at Appendix 1) providing an update on work being progressed by the Decarbonisation Strategy Panel it established after its June 2020 meeting.
3. Based on the work of the Panel, the report sets out potential commitments local authorities (LAs) could make in four areas where it is felt the public sector can achieve the greatest carbon reductions: procurement, mobility/transport, building and land use. Good progress is already being made by LAs in all of these areas and there is scope to build on that and ensure best practice is being employed across Wales.
4. In 2019 Welsh Government issued *Prosperity for all: A low carbon Wales* ([Low carbon delivery plan | GOV.WALES](#)) which included a range of commitments and targets to help tackle climate change mitigation. Many of those were relevant to local authorities. It is now updating the Plan and will be issuing *Net Zero Wales* this Autumn. It is the intention that this updated version is co-produced with LAs, to ensure that there is a sense of ownership of the document and its goals.
5. With COP 26 (the 26th meeting of the UN 'Conference of the Parties') taking place in Glasgow this November it is a particularly appropriate time to be issuing such a partnership statement of intent. As noted in the report to Partnership Council, Welsh Government and LAs have demonstrated how effectively they can work together in tackling the Covid-19 emergency. There is now a need to tackle the climate change emergency with the same degree of energy and focus to ensure this latest policy statement is acted and delivered upon.

Potential commitments

6. The Partnership Council report suggested a number of collective and high-level commitments by LAs (subject to resources) which can be summarised as follows:

- Collaborate on **procurement** specifications to minimise the carbon impact of goods and services procured, based on enhanced understanding of their emissions profiles
 - Focus on a number of prioritised scale/impact **contracts** and share the learning regarding decarbonisation across all LAs
 - Accelerate transformation of councils' own fleet towards **electric vehicles** and take steps to transition to low/zero emission amongst the grey fleet (staff travel)
 - Work on a long-term plan for the **council estate** decarbonising existing (retained) buildings, moving to renewable energy sources, and ensuring any new build is to net zero standards (in construction and operation)
 - Map out LA **land holdings** and follow up on identified opportunities for carbon sequestration, habitat restoration, renewable energy generation and flood risk management
7. There is an opportunity for LAs to endorse (or otherwise) and add to these commitments. Some other areas have been identified, via the work of the Panel and from excellent work at regional level that is feeding to and from the Panel. A range of these proposals have significant implications for the workforce and training and re-training will be needed (e.g. vehicle maintenance staff). Amongst the other areas under discussion are the following:
- work with the 21st Century schools programme to establish and **address cost differential and barriers to building net zero/carbon positive schools**
 - plan ahead for a **co-ordinated programme of boiler replacement** in council-owned properties
 - support **remote working** by staff where possible and appropriate, at home or in 'hubs', and encourage **travel to work** via active travel and public transport to reduce unnecessary car journeys
 - organise **training programmes for LA staff** across Wales to build awareness and 'mainstream' decarbonisation planning into all service areas
 - work with colleges to develop a 'pipeline' of skilled workers, through **apprenticeships and training, to support LA retrofit** work
 - develop a specific 5-year **training and apprenticeship programme on peatland restoration** to support the supply chain (which could tie into proposals for a National Nature Service)
 - continue to explore opportunities around **hydrogen** in relation to transport and heating.
8. Timescales will need to be agreed for many of these commitments. Some were set out in the original Low Carbon Wales Plan. These will need to be revisited and updated, with targets also agreed for new commitments.

Local Government Pension Funds

9. There has been a lot of recent correspondence into the WLGA from Friends of the Earth Cymru (FoEC) and Divest Dyfed, highlighting their concerns about the level of investment and the impact on climate change.
10. As with climate change and decarbonisation in general, this is increasingly an area of interest and concern for the electorate and government at all levels are likely to face increasing pressure to act on divestment from fossil fuels.
11. Several councils have passed motions to divest from fossil fuels and others have moved money into low carbon funds, however the complexity and rules governing pension funds makes change difficult, with LAs having little direct control over how money is invested beyond that of shareholders with voting powers.
12. The Wales Pension Partnership (WPP)—the collaboration of 8 Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) funds—represents the interests of its Constituent Authorities (Cardiff & Vale, Flintshire, Dyfed, Gwent, Gwynedd, Powys, RCT, Swansea). We propose to write to the WPP to better understand its Responsible Investment Policy and a draft letter is set out in the annex for the incoming Chair and Vice-Chair (they should be approved at the end of July).

Recommendations

13. It is recommended that Leaders:
 - endorse the commitments as set out in the report to the Partnership Council (see Appendix), subject to necessary resources being made available
 - consider additional commitments including, but not limited to, those in para. 7, indicating if any of those suggested would be problematic
 - agree to the detail being worked up further by the Decarbonisation Strategy Panel and either brought back to a future meeting or, if time does not allow, agreed with Group Leaders
 - write to the WPP to initiate a dialogue between the WLGA and the WPP on the local government pension scheme.

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Appendix 1

Partnership Council for Wales – 7th July 2021 – WLGA Decarbonisation Update

Purpose

1. To update the Partnership Council on decarbonisation work, progress since the last meeting and the next steps.

Background

2. Wales has committed to achieving net zero carbon emissions across the public sector by 2030. In June 2020, the Partnership Council agreed a joint statement between local authorities, Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs), town and community councils and Welsh Government setting an ambitious leadership direction. It also agreed that decarbonisation should be a standing agenda item for future meetings to monitor progress towards the 2030 target.
3. Two of the commitments made in the joint statement were (i) the establishment of a Decarbonisation Strategy Panel (DSP) to progress work and report back to the Partnership Council and (ii) for local authorities to have robust evidence-based action plans in place by March 2021 for achieving net zero by 2030. The update report to the March 2021 Partnership Council meeting noted that the UK Climate Change Committee (UK CCC) had published updated advice (in December 2020¹) bringing emission reduction targets forward. Whilst that did not change Welsh Government's public sector net zero by 2030 target, the Partnership Council acknowledged the UK CCC's message about the need to act early to embed the changes needed to meet the target. Welsh Government allocated an initial £200,000 towards a support programme for local authorities, to be managed by WLGA, with a further £300,000 already identified for 2021/22.
4. The UK CCC's more recent independent assessment of climate change risk in the UK contains a national summary for Wales ([CCRA-Evidence-Report-Wales-Summary-Final.pdf \(ukclimaterisk.org\)](#)). This states that there is evidence of an adaptation gap between current planning and the scale of action required to manage the risk from climate change in Wales. Adaptation and mitigation measures are closely inter-related and it makes sense for them to be considered and developed together as far as possible. The CCC calls for "monitoring, research, risk assessment and strategic planning at local, regional levels supported by national policy and action by the Welsh Government (p.7)". Helping to address that adaptation gap via such measures will therefore be amongst the objectives of the DSP and the WLGA support

¹ [Sixth Carbon Budget - Climate Change Committee \(theccc.org.uk\)](#) – This report recommended a 78% reduction in territorial emissions between 1990 and 2035, effectively bringing forward the UK's previous 80% target by nearly 15 years).

programme, alongside its central purpose, to promote decarbonisation and mitigation of climate change impacts.

5. The benefits of close working between Welsh Government and local authorities have been evident in relation to the Covid-19 emergency. A similar approach and intensity of effort are needed to tackle the climate change emergency, which arguably poses at least as great a risk to communities as the pandemic.
6. This report provides an update on the progress to date of the DSP and seeks a political steer and support in terms of taking the work to date forward. That includes views on the nature and extent of participation in the major international climate change conference, COP26, in Glasgow this November and the linked COP Cymru plans within Wales.

Update

Local Government Decarbonisation Strategy Panel

7. The DSP (membership in Annex 1) held its first meeting in Climate Week in November 2020. Since then, a further seven meetings have taken place so far. The Panel agreed broadly to follow the Public Sector Routemap to Net Zero produced by Welsh Government. This identifies four main areas where the public sector can exercise greatest impact in terms of reducing its own emissions:
 - Procurement
 - Mobility and transport
 - Buildings
 - Land use
8. Each of the above has been the subject of detailed analysis at Panel meetings. The sessions are being progressed using a consistent approach, as follows:
 - a discussion document is produced setting out a wide range of relevant issues
 - the Panel discusses the report, with additional input from invited experts in the field
 - A synthesis document is produced, incorporating key points that have arisen at the Panel meeting and identifying potential strategic actions
 - The document is circulated to the Panel for comment in the first instance to get an agreed working draft
 - Consideration is then given to circulating the draft more widely to relevant professional groups working in the field. This serves a number of purposes: (i) to raise awareness of the work of the DSP and its attempts to pull strands together and co-ordinate efforts (ii) to get

feedback on how far identified actions are already being undertaken and (iii) to seek a consensus on how best to respond to the Panel's proposals, avoiding duplication and maximising integration.

9. To help give official status to the work arising from this process, it is intended that proposals for commitments and actions by local authorities (LAs) are incorporated into the next Wales Low Carbon Delivery plan to be published in the autumn, titled '*Net Zero Wales*'.
10. This will require work at pace to develop and agree the detail of these commitments and actions. Whilst these will be specific to LAs, it is intended that they will be included as part of a cross-cutting, public sector chapter.
11. Other chapters in the plan will include wider, overall commitments for Wales in relation to power, buildings, transport, agriculture etc. many of which will be relevant to LAs.
12. Some overarching commitments will be needed such as:
 - To ensure strong and clear national, regional and local structures are in place to facilitate and support communication, to share good practice and lessons learnt and to challenge, raise and support ambition levels across Wales
 - To put in place an (initial) two-year programme of decarbonisation support, funded by WG and delivered by WLGA on behalf of all LAs to provide advice, tools, research and training, avoiding duplication and saving resource across all 22 authorities, sharing and driving best practice.
 - To monitor emissions annually, using consistent baseline data supported by an annual review to report progress and drive improvements.
13. In relation to the four key elements of the route map, further work is needed but the box below provides examples of sort of strategic proposals that are being considered, arising from the work of the Panel to date. These will need to be built upon by LAs such that a range of challenging but achievable goals are set. Crucial to that will be the availability of funding. Many of the measures required will need significant investment with 'front loading'. However, that investment will be preventative and help to avoid costs in the years ahead. LA commitments, in that sense, will be made subject to resources. Dates will need to be determined (taking into consideration those set in the initial Low Carbon Delivery Plan ([Low carbon delivery plan | GOV.WALES](#))).

Procurement:

- Set out carbon reduction specifications in contracts with the private sector to accelerate the decarbonisation agenda. Around 60% of a council's carbon emissions are from procuring supplies and services. There are significant opportunities for councils and other public sector bodies to collaborate on specifications (e.g. setting contractual expectations in respect of reusable packaging, delivery of goods by electric vehicles, elimination of single use plastics, waste recycling targets for each business)
- Good and widespread understanding of the emissions profile of all main types of goods and services procured by LAs to be developed
- A number of priority scale/impact contracts (e.g. construction, social care, schools) to be used to develop a robust decarbonisation reduction approach, with the aim of applying this to all LA purchasing activities over an agreed time period. Exemplar projects and lessons learnt to be developed and shared regionally and nationally.

Transport:

- Transformation of fleet to EV / Zero Emission to be accelerated, building on LA fleet reviews completed in 2021, developing transition plans by [*date to be determined*] which set out how fleet will be decarbonised, with targets and goals around the following:
 - acceleration of the roll-out of EV charging infrastructure
 - all new cars and light goods vehicles to be ultra-low emission by ????
 - carbon footprint of buses/taxis/private hire vehicles to be zero by ????
 - school transport provision
- Grey Fleet review to be completed by [*date to determined*] to identify how to support staff in reducing travel where possible and to transition to low/zero emission transport.

Buildings:

- Ystadau Cymru as strategic lead for the public sector to work with LA estate managers to identify and shape what the estate will look like longer term (following recovery from the pandemic) and ensure decarbonisation is at the forefront of this agenda, helping to drive the next three commitments:

- strategic plan to be developed **to decarbonise a range of building types** including schools, many of which are early 20th century
- All public buildings to be supplied with **low carbon heat** by [*date to be determined*] and to generate their own renewable electricity where feasible
- All **new** [*new build and new acquisitions, e.g. hubs and lease arrangements*] public sector buildings to be **built to net zero standard**, including supply chain impacts. (net zero build and net zero operation)

Land Use:

- Carbon sequestration opportunities to be actively pursued by LAs on their land, including habitat restoration, tree planting etc as appropriate
- A land mapping exercise to be completed by [*date to be determined*] identifying types of land and their sequestration potential, with plans to be developed to maximise carbon benefits. Also, use the exercise to identify potential flood management measures
- Work in partnership with Natural Resources Wales to identify suitable sites for forestation and to generate green energy from water, wind and solar technologies

WLGA Support Programme

14. In order to facilitate a co-ordinated approach to the sorts of activity that could be generated as a result of the above proposals, WLGA has been funded by Welsh Government to provide a support programme. This has been titled the 'Transition and Recovery Support Programme' as it is seeking to provide support to LAs not only in relation to decarbonisation but also wider green recovery, incorporating recovery from the pandemic and from the after-effects of leaving the EU.
15. A framework contract has been established to enable expert advice and assistance to be drawn upon as required. This contract was advertised via

Sell2Wales and generated a great deal of interest. Eventually, five consultants were selected as follows:

- Netherwood Sustainable Solutions
- Grant Thornton
- Cylchog
- Costain
- Miller Research

16. These consultants were assessed as having the necessary blend and range of experience and knowledge to assist LAs in responding to the challenges ahead. Other sources of support, such as the Welsh Government Energy Service, will also be drawn upon as and when appropriate. Their use, collectively, will enable work to be undertaken 'once for Wales' and shared across all LAs, instead of each LA having to address issues in isolation. It will also hopefully help to identify wider community benefits that could be generated – for example supply chain benefits of developing a programme of action across Wales, as opposed to pursuing ad hoc responses at a local level.

17. The first commission has already been awarded. It will involve a review of LA decarbonisation plans. The intention is to identify good practice, gaps that need filling and opportunities for joint action. Initial findings are expected in August, in time to inform the Net Zero Plan. As such, it is expected to generate further work, following up on the findings and providing advice and support where LAs have flagged up their needs.

COP 26

18. COP 26, the 26th annual United Nations climate change conference, is taking place in Glasgow from 31st October to 12th November. The four main goals for this COP are:

- To secure global net zero emissions by mid-century to keep the target of a 1.5 degree rise in global temperatures within reach
- To adapt to protect communities and natural habitats
- To mobilise finance in support of the goals
- To work together to deliver and meet the goals.

19. It is not yet clear what the balance of the conference will be in terms of physical versus virtual attendance. The generation of multiple international trips to Glasgow appears at odds with the central objectives of the Conference. However, governments may want face-to-face meetings (pending any Covid-related restrictions) given the significant implications of the major items to be negotiated. Furthermore, the Scottish Government is understandably keen to maximise the wider benefits of hosting such an important international event. Beyond the main negotiations that will take

place in the UN-managed 'Blue Zone' (in the Scottish Events Campus) there will be other civic society discussions in the UK-managed 'Green Zone' (in the Glasgow Science Centre). There will also be an active 'fringe' with a wide range of other activity and meetings occurring throughout the Conference period.

20. WLGA has been in discussion at official level with COSLA, NILGA and the LGA about how local government can ensure its voice is heard. At the same time, it will be important to present a Welsh perspective, identifying how partners are working together in Wales to tackle the issues, including plans for COP Cymru.

21. Whilst there is still time to agree the best approach to involvement at the Conference, the Partnership Council presents an opportunity for Ministers and Leaders to have an initial exchange of views.

Recommendations

22. It is recommended that Partnership Council:

- notes the progress of the DSP
- considers and makes any initial comments on the potential commitments and actions arising from its work to inform the approach to Net Zero Wales
- endorses the next steps suggested, with LAs to develop and agree a set of commitments (subject to resources)
- exchanges views on the approach to the COP26 Conference in Glasgow in November.

Annex 1- DSP Members

Representing	Individual	Roles & responsibilities
Local Authorities - representing South East	Chris Bradshaw	Chief Executive RCT CBC
Local Authorities - representing South West	Wendy Walters	Chief Executive, Carmarthenshire CC
Local Authorities - representing Mid	Caroline Turner	Chief Executive, Powys CC
Local authorities – representing North	Iwan Davies	Chief Executive, Conwy CBC
	Helen Vaughan- Evans	Strategic Planning, Denbighshire CC
LA Directors of Environment	Rachel Jowitt	Director for Environment, Torfaen CBC
	Richard Crook	Director for Environment Blaenau Gwent CBC
WLGA	Tim Peppin	Director of Regeneration & Sustainable Development
	Ben Sears	
Welsh Government	Reg Kilpatrick John Howells	Director Local Government Director – Energy and Decarbonisation
Cardiff University Centre for Climate & Social Transformations (CAST)	Professor Carly McLachlan	Technical guidance and support
Natural Resources Wales	Clive Walmsley	Technical guidance and support. Links to wider public sector ambitions.
National Parks Authority (NPA)	Tegryn Jones	Chief Executive - Pembrokeshire National Park, Chair of NPA.
Trade Union	Nicola Savage – GMB (Jessica Khoshooee - UNISON – deputy)	Union oversight and perspective

Annex 1

Ein Cyf /Our Ref:	JR/AH
Eich Cyf /Your Ref:	
Dyddiad /Date:	28 July 2021
Gofynnwch am /Please ask for:	Jon Rae
Llinell uniongyrchol /Direct line:	029 2046 8620
Ebost /Email:	jon.rae@wlga.gov.uk

Chair & Vice-chair
Wales Pensions Partnership
Treasury & Pension Investments Section
County Hall
Carmarthen
SA31 1Jp



Dear [insert names of new Chair & Vice-chair on 28 July]

Opening a dialogue between the WPP and WLGA

As the representative body for local government, we have received a lot of recent correspondence from groups including Divest Dyfed and Friends of the Earth about ethical investment and the Local Government Pension Funds. As far as we can, we respond positively about the progress that is being made.

With growing interest in infrastructure investment and COP Glasgow on the horizon later this year, it would also be timely to open a political dialogue on these opportunities in which we have strategic alignment.

I fully understand the fiduciary duty that each Fund has to its membership, and I would never encroach on that. As employers, the authorities we lead have quite different responsibilities in this regard.

However, we have common aims and objectives including ensuring that the funds maximise returns while investing for the public good.

With your links to the Scheme Advisory Board, I am very keen to open a dialogue to show Wales is leading the way in these important issues of good governance.

Yours sincerely,

Councillor Anthony Hunt (WLGA Finance Spokesperson)

Dr Chris Llewelyn
Prif Weithredwr
Chief Executive

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MANAGING LONG-COVID IN THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT WORKFORCE

Purpose

1. To agree an interim Joint Protocol with the recognised trade unions on the temporary management of staff diagnosed with long-COVID, to enable a consistent, sympathetic and supportive approach across local authorities in Wales.

Background

2. Long-COVID is an emerging condition which has emanated from the current pandemic. The NHS website describes long-COVID as a range of symptoms that can last weeks or months after the infection has gone. This is sometimes called post-COVID-19 syndrome or 'long COVID'

Those symptoms include: -

- extreme tiredness (fatigue)
- shortness of breath/ chest pain or tightness
- problems with memory and concentration ("brain fog")
- difficulty sleeping (insomnia)
- heart palpitations
- dizziness
- depression and anxiety
- tinnitus, earaches
- feeling sick, diarrhoea, stomach aches, loss of appetite

3. How long it takes to recover from COVID-19 is different for everybody. Many people feel better in a few days or weeks' and most will make a full recovery within 12 weeks. Diagnosis can be difficult and NICE consider long-COVID to exist when symptoms continue for more than 12 weeks and are not explained by an alternative diagnosis.

Management of Long-Covid

4. Being a very new condition, the medical management of the condition is still emerging and therefore creates issues for employers in managing those diagnosed with long-covid in a sympathetic and consistent manner. Welsh Government has very recently announced a funding package for the NHS to support the treatment of those who suffer from this condition, but it may take some time for individuals to access the appropriate therapies and support. Welsh Government plan to review this current programme after 6 months.
5. The application of normal sickness absence procedures would see some staff with the condition at risk of losing their jobs due to long-term absence and/or having their pay significantly reduced whilst we are still in the throes of the pandemic and as responses to and the understanding of the condition are developing.

ACAS Advice

6. Advice from ACAS also recognises that long-COVID is a relatively new illness, and their advice extends to practical tips for employers to support their staff in a sensitive way. These include.
 - arrange and offer occupational health assessments.
 - look into reasonable adjustments, which can vary from changed hours, to adapted physical workspaces; and
 - discuss flexible working as an option as well as phased returns, which may mean coming back part-time initially to build back up to working usual hours.
 - It's a good idea for the employer to focus on the reasonable adjustments they can make rather than trying to work out if an employee's condition is a disability.

The Wider Public Sector

7. It is evident from discussions with local government colleagues in England that there is a lack of understanding in managing long-COVID and there is currently no new national advice that can be relied upon. The general approach seems to be to take a sympathetic and supportive approach in line with advice from the National Joint Council:-

For absences identified by a medical professional as, or pertaining to, 'long COVID', employers are reminded of the provisions in the Green Book Part 2 Para 10.3. Namely, that discretion can be exercised locally in extending the period of sick pay in exceptional circumstances, which include helping an employee to avoid incurring financial hardship. If this provision is invoked, it

is important that a consistent approach is taken across the organisation to all similar types of absence and circumstances.

Should sickness absence continue, or be expected to continue, for such a period of time that the employee's return to work is unlikely within a reasonable period, employers should adopt the same practice as they would for any other long-term illness. This should include regular contact with the employee and involving Occupational Health and trade union representatives at the appropriate time.

The unequal impact of COVID on different risk groups means that employers will need to ensure their practices comply with their equalities duties.

Appropriate actions may include temporary redeployment or reasonable adjustments.

8. In Wales the NHS have been grappling with similar issues. They have agreed through their social partnership arrangements to ensure that staff who are diagnosed with long-COVID remain on full pay for the present. It is understood that this will be reviewed at the end of this calendar year. Welsh Government are emphasising the flexibility and reasonable adjustments to support staff but have made no decisions regarding payments.

Scope and Scale

9. The scope and scale of long-COVID in the local government workforce is as yet unclear. However, soundings taken with HR Directors indicate that the numbers are very low, with just one or two cases being identified in some but not all authorities.
10. The NHS estimate that they have around 50 cases throughout the whole NHS workforce in Wales who are on long-term absence. We propose to continue to monitor the situation to better understand the impact on the local government workforce in Wales.
11. Emerging national evidence suggests that this condition affects women more than men, and that age could also be a factor.

Conclusion

12. Long-COVID is still an emerging issue and as such the medical knowledge and response is evolving. The numbers affected are considered to be low at present but the impact on those individuals can be significant if normal sickness absence procedures are followed.
13. The issue of managing long-COVID requires further information and research to better understand the benefits of therapies and the ability for those staff to resume work again.

14. We have valued the local government workforce throughout the pandemic, and it would be helpful if these individuals could be managed in a consistent manner that would provide reassurance and confidence that the issue of long-covid is being managed sympathetically and supportively over the next period until further information emerges.
15. The attached interim protocol provides the basis to support these individuals in this manner, without prejudice to any further commitments of this nature.

Recommendations

16. Members are asked to:

- 16.2 Consider the attached Interim Protocol:
- 16.2 Agree to implement this across all authorities for a period of 6 months; and
- 16.3 Subject to agreement, seek joint support for the protocol from the trade unions side of the Joint Council for Wales and the Schools Social Partnership Forum.

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Interim Protocol for the Management of Long- COVID in Local Authorities in Wales

This is a joint interim protocol between the members of WLGA and the trades unions of the Joint Council for Wales and the Schools Social Partnership Forum and is intended to cover all staff employed by local authorities in Wales.

Introduction

Both employers and trades unions recognise the impact that long-COVID has on employees. This is a new and debilitating condition to which remedies and treatment is still emerging and therefore, the full extent of its implications is not fully understood.

Currently, it is thought that the numbers of staff affected are low and the employers and trades unions wish to support those individuals as best they can whilst further research is undertaken and there is a fuller understanding of the condition and how it is best managed medically and consistently with other conditions.

This interim protocol provides the basis for a consistent approach to manage those individuals diagnosed with long-COVID and is consistent with other parts of the public service in Wales. It should provide reassurance and confidence that the issues of long-COVID and being managed in a sympathetic and supportive way and is wholly consistent with the approach advocated by ACAS.

Key elements:

- 1. There will be a temporary suspension of some elements of the sickness absence scheme for staff diagnosed as having long-COVID.**
 - a. The absence will still be regarded as sickness absence and should be recorded as such but the usual monitoring purposes which can lead to disciplinary action or dismissal will be suspended during the term of this protocol.**
 - b. Manager/Supervisor contact and engagement with individuals will continue for supportive purposes.**
 - c. Referral to Occupational Health Services will continue as a recognised route for support, advice and any therapies that the employer is able to offer, including psychological and emotional support that accompanies the physical ailments.**
- 2. Staff diagnosed with long-COVID who can work, subject to medical advice, should have robust risk assessments undertaken and access to reasonable adjustments to support their ability to work.**
- 3. Consistent with practices in the NHS sector, local authorities will ensure that any employee who is on long term-sick with a diagnosis of long-COVID will remain on full pay (regardless of their service)**

for the term of this protocol, at which point the position will be reviewed

Term

This interim protocol will be in place for a 6-month period to take effect from XX July 2021 until XX January 2022.

It will be reviewed periodically in the light of emerging information and advice and only amended by joint agreement. It is without prejudice to the existing terms and conditions and is not intended to be a permanent feature of terms and conditions.

Further Developments

This interim protocol provides a period in which those staff diagnosed with long-COVID can feel reassured and supported during a difficult and uncertain time. It will also provide the opportunity to further understand the size and scope of the issue, benefit from improving understanding of the condition and how best employers and trades unions can manage this issue in a consistent and sustainable way.

All parties to this protocol will continue to contribute to a better understanding of these issues.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

WLGA REBRAND**Purpose**

- 1 This report sets out the background to the WLGA Rebrand and seeks Members' views on the design options.

Background

- 2 The WLGA brand is key to the effectiveness of our communications; a successful brand creates confidence and trust. It is how people and organisations experience us and our services and every time someone sees our brand, they form an immediate judgement on our organisation, our products, services, and ultimately us.
- 3 In 2019, the WLGA Management Sub Committee agreed that the WLGA should undertake a rebrand as part of wider plans to enhance and expand the WLGA's communications approach. The rebrand was delayed due to the pandemic, but over the past 3 months we have been working with Designdough, a Cardiff based design agency, to deliver it.
- 4 A brand of logo alone cannot convey why and how the WLGA does what we do and Designdough have also developed a Brand Strategy for internal WLGA usage, which is a set of guidelines to ensure consistency of our language and messaging when communicating our purpose.
- 5 Designdough have held workshops with the WLGA Management Team and wider staff to develop options. The approach was to develop a series of design options, ranging from close to our current branding and to options that are quite different. The designs are based on concepts which are explained in the brand presentations, but broadly based on 'people and services' and 'influence'.
- 6 WLGA Group Leaders have had also had an initial, informal discussion and the background and designs with all leaders ahead of the Executive Board to provide an opportunity to reflect on the options and provide any comments in advance.
- 7 Executive Board will receive a brief presentation on the 2 design options, including how the branding might look when used on corporate materials and templates.

Why we are rebranding?

8. The WLGA's current corporate branding has been in place for around 15 years (see Annex). Alone this is not a reason to rebrand, but the WLGA needs to project that it is a modern organisation - as Local Authorities continue to modernise and change, the WLGA also needs to renew and refresh. The WLGA encourages local authorities to innovate and change and we should be embodying that in our brand.
- 9 The world now is far more digitally enabled than when the WLGA's current corporate branding was introduced, and the pace of digital transformation is only being accelerated by the coronavirus pandemic as many more people have needed or chosen to access public services online during this time. Our branding therefore needs to meet digital and accessibility requirements that would not have been considerations when it was originally designed.
- 10 For similar reasons, several local authorities and other national organisations, including Data Cymru, WCVA and Audit Wales, have all rebranded in recent years to create simplified, modernised, bilingual branding.

Why now?

11. Rebranding can mark a new chapter or refreshed vision for an organisation.
- 12 2021 is the 25th Anniversary year of the establishment of Wales' 22 local authorities and the Welsh Local Government Association.
- 13 2021-22 has been a significant year for WLGA, notwithstanding the COVID pandemic, it is the start of a new Senedd term and a new Welsh Government, the new Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act comes into force and we prepare new members and authorities being elected at the May elections in 2022.
- 14 The WLGA is also in the process of moving to new, modern accommodation within Cardiff City centre. Our communications team and approach will be expanded and enhanced and the Local Government Chief Digital Officer's unit will also be expanding and developing and supporting digital public service delivery and transformation in Wales.
- 15 The move to new accommodation will require new corporate branding, livery and signage as well as the production of new marketing and publicity materials. It is therefore appropriate to renew the corporate branding at this time.
- 16 For the reasons set out above, this year is the opportune year to rebrand and mark a new chapter/vision for the organisation going forward.
- 17 The new branding and guidelines will be finalised around the end of July, following Executive Board's decision, and the new branding will be used publicly from the Autumn, when we move into the new office accommodation.

Recommendations

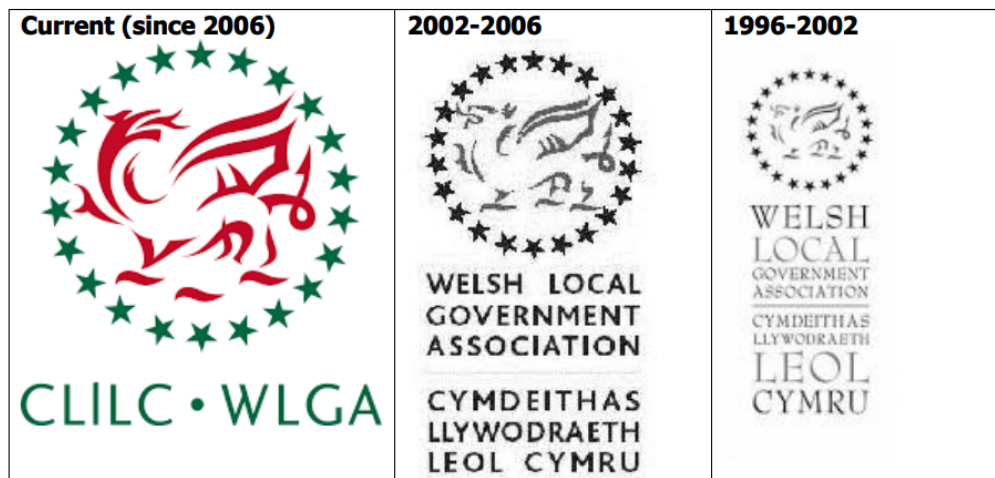
18 Members are asked to:

20.1 Consider the two design options and agree a preferred brand.

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Annex

The evolution of the WLGA logo since 2016



New brand options:

Design 1:





Design 2:



