

24th June 2022

APPOINTMENTS TO THE BOARD OF DATA CYMRU

Purpose

1. To appoint eight members to serve on the Board of Data Cymru for the period commencing with the Board's Annual General Meeting.

Background

2. Data Cymru is a company limited by guarantee, wholly owned by local government in Wales. Established in 2001 to work with and for local government in Wales on data and statistical issues. Data Cymru's focus is supporting local authorities effective use of data – *'putting data at the heart of public service delivery'*.
3. Currently employing 23 staff and with an annual operating budget of around £1.3million (65% of which is generated through commercial income), Data Cymru delivers a wide range of projects in support of local authorities and the WLGA. Current work includes:
 - Collating and disseminating a range of data to support the local authority self-assessment process;
 - Producing local area profiles to provide low level data to aid sub-authority understanding;
 - Analysing and disseminating data to provide a picture of poverty across Wales;
 - Facilitating service benchmarking across a number of local authority service areas;
 - Exploring if and how social media data can inform local government;
 - Providing a range of data related capacity building support, including our DataBasicCymru+ programme – designed to develop and support a data culture within local authorities in Wales;
 - Running a series of free webinars (currently two per month) to showcase innovative and inspirational work around data;
 - Developing and hosting a series of communities of interest and/or practice on key data related issues e.g. data sharing, data standards etc.
 - Procuring access to key commercial datasets for and on behalf of local authorities; and
 - Undertaking both the candidate and exit surveys around the local government elections;

4. The work of Data Cymru is overseen by a Board of Directors appointed annually by the Welsh Local Government Association. The Board is also supported by a number of advisors. Operational management is provided by Richard Palmer, the Chief Operating Officer.

Board Members

5. In line with the provisions of the Articles of Association of Data Cymru, the WLGA has been asked to appoint eight members of the Company who will also be the non-executive directors of the Data Cymru for the next twelve-month period.

6. In determining the appointment of eight representatives to serve on the Data Cymru Board it will be necessary to reflect the political balance of the Association as determined at the WLGA's Annual General Meeting. Whilst Leaders are encouraged to sit on this Board and nominations can be received from the Council or wider local authority membership of the WLGA.
7. Board members will direct the work of the organisation by setting the strategic direction and contributing to the development of annual work programmes. They will act as advocates for the company within their own local authorities and across local government more widely. Ideally, they will understand how data is used within local authorities to inform service development and delivery. They should be able to offer insight into how they currently engage with data and suggest ways in which Data Cymru can further support elected members and local government more widely.
8. Members are expected to attend three Board meetings per year and may attend occasional Data Cymru launches or events as appropriate.
9. The Association's membership of the Data Cymru Board for 2021-22 was as follows:
 - Councillor Colin Mann, Caerphilly (Plaid Cymru) – CHAIR
 - Councillor Geraint Hopkins, Rhondda Cynon Taf (Labour)
 - Councillor Richard Clark, Torfaen (Labour)
 - Councillor Jane Mudd, Newport (Labour)
 - Councillor Neil Prior, Pembrokeshire (Independent) – VICE CHAIR
 - Councillor Nigel Smith, Conwy (Independent)
 - Councillor Mair Stephens, Carmarthenshire (Independent)
 - Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill, Denbighshire (Conservative)
 - Karen Jones, Chief Executive, Neath Port Talbot
 - Company Secretary: Dr Chris Llewelyn

The Board is also supported in its activities by a number of advisors:

- Jon Rae, WLGA
- Sam Hall, Chief Digital Officer - Local Government
- Daniel Hurford, WLGA
- Professor Malcolm Beynon - Cardiff Business School

Recommendations

10. The WLGA Council is invited to:

10.1 Appoint eight members to serve as members of the Data Cymru Board for the forthcoming twelve-month period, commencing with Data Cymru Board's Annual General Meeting on 16 September 2022.

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