

30th June 2023

NOMINATIONS TO THE WLGA DIGITAL LEADERSHIP BOARD 2023-24

Purpose

1. To invite the WLGA Council to nominate members to serve on the WLGA Digital Leadership Board.

Background

2. The WLGA Executive Board previously agreed to establish a member-led WLGA Digital Board to promote digital leadership within local government and to provide strategic oversight of the work of the Chief Digital Officer and team in supporting authorities.
3. The WLGA has worked closely with the Welsh Government during recent years to establish a Chief Digital Officer and team for local government. Lindsey Phillips has recently been appointed as interim Chief Digital Officer.
4. Following initial Welsh Government grant funding, the Minister for Finance and Local Government agreed to transfer the annual grant funding for the work of the Chief Digital Officer and team into a permanent top-slice into the WLGA from 1st April 2022 and, in doing so, it was agreed to establish a member-led Board to provide strategic leadership and oversight of the digital agenda within local government.
5. It was decided the WLGA Digital Leadership Board should include 5 senior elected members, which may be appointed on political balance, to be chaired by the lead WLGA spokesperson covering digital matters.
6. The Board would also include invited officer membership from SOLACE and the Heads of IT Network. The Leadership Board would be supported and informed by a panel of advisors and it is proposed that the Chief Operating Officer Data Cymru and Chief Digital Officers from Welsh Government, Health and the chief executive/s of Centre for Digital Public Services are invited as advisors.
7. The Digital Leadership Board exists to share information and latest developments, provide challenge, and develop a more collective and consistent approach to digital transformation in local government. It helps set the strategic coordination and direction of local government digital projects, including overseeing the work of the Chief Digital Officer and delivery team.
8. The Digital Leadership Board will:
 - Review and advise the digital strategy and delivery plan for local government in Wales;
 - Support and promote the work of the Welsh local government digital team;
 - Support and challenge local authorities to ensure that digital remain at the forefront of strategy and delivery;

- Promote digital leadership and transformation and encourage consistency of digital standards across local government;
 - Promote good practice, shared learning and encourage collaborative development and sharing of digital solutions; and
 - Identify issues or priorities that require a collective response from local authorities, public service partners and/or the Welsh Government.
9. It is anticipated that the Digital Leadership Board will meet for half a day, a minimum of 4 times per year. The agenda will be sent out at least one week prior to any meeting dates.
10. The Association's membership to the Digital Leadership Board for 2022-23 was as follows:
- Cllr Jane Mudd (Newport)
 - Cllr Gill German (Denbighshire)
 - Cllr Chris Weaver (Cardiff)
 - Cllr Neil Prior (Pembrokeshire)
 - Cllr Clive Davies (Ceredigion)

Recommendations

11. The WLGA Council is invited:

- 11.1 To nominate five members to serve on the WLGA's Digital Leadership Board for 2023-24.**

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