

24th June 2022

NOMINATIONS TO THE WLGA DIGITAL LEADERSHIP BOARD 2022-23

Purpose

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

Background

2. The WLGA Executive Board has 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. Sam Hall has been Chief Digital Officer since 2020 and the digital team has expanded during the past 18 months.
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 is proposed that the new WLGA Digital Leadership Board should be made up of 5 senior elected members, which may be appointed on political balance, to be chaired by the lead 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 will be established to share information and latest developments, provide challenge and develop a more collective and consistent approach to digital transformation in local government. It would help 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 set at least two weeks prior to any meeting dates.

Recommendations

10. WLGA Council is invited:

- 7.1 To nominate five members to serve on the WLGA's Digital Leadership Board for 2022-23.**

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