Cofnodion

Is-bwyllgor Rheoli CLILC

9 Rhagfyr 2022
Dros Zoom

YN BRESENNOL:

Dirprwy Swyddog Llywyddu	Y Cynghorydd Jane Mudd (Casnewydd) Y Cynghorydd Andrew Morgan (Rhondda Cynon Taf) Y Cynghorydd Rob Stewart (Abertawe) Y Cynghorydd Dyfrig Siencyn (Gwynedd) Y Cynghorydd Llinos Medi (Ynys Môn) Y Cynghorydd Anthony Hunt (Torfaen) Y Cynghorydd Lis Burnett (Bro Morgannwg) Y Cynghorydd Ian Roberts (Sir y Fflint) Y Cynghorydd Huw Thomas (Caerdydd)
YMDDIHEURIADAU:	Y Cynghorydd Huw David (Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr), Swyddog Llywyddu CLILC Y Cynghorydd Charlie McCoubrey (Conwy) Y Cynghorydd David Simpson (Sir Benfro) Y Cynghorydd Mark Pritchard (Wrecsam)
HEFYD YN BRESENNOL:	Chris Llewelyn, Naomi Alleyne, Jon Rae, Daniel Hurford, Sharon Davies, Karen Higgins, Lee Pitt, Nathan Gardner a Lynwen Davies (Cyfieithydd)
HEFYD YN BRESENNOL:	Thelma Stober, Ymgynghorydd Cyfreithiol Corfforaethol y Gymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol

Eitem 1: Croeso ac Ymddiheuriadau

1. Croesawodd y Dirprwy Swyddog Llywyddu, y Cynghorydd Jane Mudd, bawb i'r cyfarfod a nodwyd yr ymddiheuriadau fel yr uchod.

Eitem 2: **CYFRINACHOL** Ymchwiliad Covid-19: Cyflwyno Tystiolaeth CLILC

Nid oes modd cyhoeddi'r adroddiad hwn gan ei fod yn cynnwys gwybodaeth sy'n unol â'r disgrifiad a nodir ym mharagraffau 20.7 ac 20.8 Cyfansoddiad CLILC, gan fod Is-bwyllgor Rheoli CLILC "…yn paratoi i glywed tystiolaeth gan unigolyn, neu'n bwriadu cwrdd ag unigolyn." Fel Cyfranogwr Craidd COVID-19, mae CLILC hefyd yn cael gwybodaeth a rennir yn gyfrinachol gan dîm Ymchwiliad COVID-19.

2. Penderfynwyd:

2.1 Bod aelodau'n nodi cynnwys yr adroddiad ac yn gofyn am fynediad at ohebiaeth a chofnodion CLILC a rannwyd yn flaenorol o'r cyfnod COVID-19; a

2.2 Bod aelodau'n cytuno i Brif Weithredwr CLILC gyflwyno datganiadau tyst Modiwl 1 a Modiwl 2B i'r ymchwiliad Covid-19 ar ran CLILC.

Eitem 3: Y wybodaeth ddiweddaraf ar Sefydlu Cwmni i Arwain y Tîm Archwilio ar y Cyd

3. Cyflwynodd Naomi Alleyne, Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Thai, yr adroddiad a nododd fod aelodau eisoes wedi cytuno i CLILC arwain Tîm Archwilio ar y Cyd ar ran Llywodraeth Cymru a sefydlu cwmni cyfyngedig trwy warant i wneud hynny.

4. Cynhaliwyd gweithdy ddydd Llun, 7 Tachwedd, a fynychwyd gan rai arweinwyr, i gadarnhau pwrpas y Tîm Archwilio ar y Cyd ynghyd â'r buddion a'r bwriadau, adolygu'r peryglon a'r camau lliniaru; a threfniadau i fynd i'r afael â'r rhwymedigaethau a'r risgiau a nodwyd. Adlewyrchir yr adborth a'r cyfeiriad a fynegwyd gan aelodau yn y gweithdy yn yr adroddiad.

5. Eglurodd Naomi mai pwrpas yr eitem oedd ceisio barn aelodau ar ystod o faterion y dylid cytuno arnynt ymlaen llaw cyn ymgysylltu â chyfreithwyr i ddrafftio'r Erthyglau Cymdeithasiad ar gyfer y cwmni a gaiff ei sefydlu gan CLILC i arwain Tîm Archwilio ar y Cyd.

6. Tynnodd Naomi sylw at baragraffau 6 A i E yn yr adroddiad fel materion i'w hystyried gan aelodau. Cynigwyd (paragraff 7) y gellid gwahodd y Llefarwyr CLILC perthnasol mewn perthynas â Thai a Thân ac Achub i fod yn aelodau ac y gallai un o'r rhain gadeirio'r Bwrdd er mwyn darparu cysylltiad uniongyrchol i aelodau drwy strwythurau llywodraethu ac adrodd sefydledig CLILC. Amlinellir rolau a chyfrifoldebau'r Bwrdd ym mharagraffau 9 a 10.

7. Rhoddodd Naomi wybod y byddai'r Erthyglau Cymdeithasiad drafft yn cael eu cyflwyno i aelodau ynghyd â'r gyllideb lawn ar gyfer y Tîm Archwilio ar y Cyd.

8. Penderfynwyd:

8.1 Bod aelodau'n nodi a gwneud sylw ar gynnwys yr adroddiad;

8.2 Bod aelodau wedi gwneud sylwadau ar ddewisiadau amgen i'r cynigion a/neu'n cefnogi'r cynigion a amlinellir ym mharagraffau A-E yn yr adroddiad i helpu i lywio'r broses o ddrafftio Erthyglau Cymdeithasiad y cwmni i arwain y Tîm Archwilio ar y Cyd;

8.3 Bod aelodau'n cytuno i ddefnyddio'r patrwm tân ac achub i adlewyrchu cynrychiolaeth ranbarthol aelodau ar Fwrdd y Tîm Archwilio ar y Cyd; a

8.4 Bod aelodau'n cytuno i adolygu Erthyglau Cymdeithasiad drafft cwmni'r Tîm Archwilio ar y Cyd yn y cyfarfod priodol nesaf.

Eitem 4: Cyllideb CLILC 2023-24

9. Datganodd y Cynghorydd Jane Mudd gysylltiad fel Cyd-Gadeirydd y Rhwydwaith Diogelwch Cymunedol a datganodd y Cynghorydd Medi gysylltiad fel aelod o'r Urdd.

10. Cyflwynodd y Prif Weithredwr, Chris Llewelyn, yr eitem, a phwysleisiodd bod arno eisiau i aelodau gymryd rhan weithredol yn y broses o osod cyllideb y CLILC i sicrhau fod aelodau'n teimlo synnwyr o berchnogaeth o'r Gymdeithas. Pwysleisiodd Chris mai'r cyfarfod heddiw oedd y man dechrau a gofynnodd i aelodau ymgysylltu fel y dymunant nes bydd y gyllideb yn cael ei chymeradwyo'n derfynol ym mis Mawrth 2023. Nododd bod trafodaethau eisoes wedi cael eu cynnal ar gyllideb CLILC gydag Arweinydd CLILC a rhai arweinwyr eraill.

11. Nododd Jon Rae, y Cyfarwyddwr Cyllid eu bod wedi trafod egwyddorion cyffredinol y gyllideb gyda'r Cynghorydd Hunt, lleferydd Cyllid, cyn y cyfarfod. Nodd Jon fod y papur yn ymwneud â dau fater:

    i) Trafodaethau cychwynnol mewn perthynas â rhagdybiaethau Cyllideb CLILC ar gyfer 2023/24; a'r
    ii) Dull ar gyfer brigdorri'r Grant Cynnal Refeniw.

12. Nododd Jon, o ran cyllideb CLILC, mai nod yr adroddiad yw rhannu paramedrau'r bwrdd ar gyfer gosod cyllideb CLILC (paragraff 2):

    - Tanysgrifiadau - rhewi
    - Elfen a gedwir o'r dyraniad haen uchaf - rhewi
    - Dyraniadau haen uchaf eraill yn seiliedig ar egwyddorion a gytunir yn flynyddol a gaiff eu pennu yn dilyn y setliad fel arfer
    - Arian Wrth Gefn CLILC - eu defnyddio mewn modd mwy rhagweithiol i ariannu pwysau tymor byr a chontractau tymor penodol lle bo hynny'n ddoeth. Bydd £100,000 yn cael ei ddefnyddio i gefnogi'r Rhwydwaith Cymunedau Mwy Diogel yn lle ffioedd aelodaeth cynghorau unigol ar gyfer 2023-24.
    - Mewnol - rhoi rhagor o bwyslais ar y cynllun gadael yn wirfoddol neu ymddeol yn gynnar
    - Rhagdybiaethau tâl - 4% neu beth bynnag yw'r farn berthnasol yn y sector ehangach

- Polisi Ad-daliadau Llawn - ar gyfer timau a gaiff eu hariannu gan grantiau neu ddyraniad haen uchaf o fewn CLlLC.

13. Eglurodd Jon mai'r rheswm y gellir cadw tanysgrifiadau yr un fath er y rhagwelir cynnydd tâl o 4% yw y bydd y polisi 'ad-daliadau llawn' yn arwain at £400,000 o incwm.

14. Adroddodd Jon am Brisiad Tair Blynedd y gronfa bensiwn y mae CLlLC yn rhan ohoni a nododd fod mantolen CLlLC o fewn y gronfa'n iach ar hyn o bryd ac y bydd cyfradd cyfraniadau'r cyflogwr yn gostwng o 17.6% i 17.2% - a fydd yn cael effaith gadarnhaol ar sefyllfa gyllidebol CLlLC. Mae disgwyl i CLlLC ymateb i ymgynghoriad y gronfa bensiwn (Glannau Mersi) ar ei strategaeth gyllid.

15. Cytunodd y Cynghorydd Morgan, Arweinydd CLlLC, gyda'r cynnig y dylid rhewi tanysgrifiadau ac na ddylent fod yn gysylltiedig â'r Grant Cynnal Refeniw. Nododd y Cynghorydd Morgan y dylid gosod cyllideb CLlLC yn unol â blaenoriaethau aelodau gan ddyrannu adnoddau yn unol â hynny. Rhoddodd y Cynghorydd Morgan wybod ei fod ef a Dirprwy Arweinydd CLlLC, y Cynghorydd Stewart, wedi cwrdd â Chris i ystyried strwythur, pwrpas a blaenoriaethau CLlLC i'r dyfodol, a ph'un a ddylid sianelu cyllid yn unol â hynny. Roedd Aelodau'n cefnogi sylwadau'r Cynghorydd Morgan mewn perthynas â ffocysu blaenoriaethau CLlLC ac y dylid datgysylltu cynyddiadau awtomatig i'r dyraniadau haen uchaf o unrhyw gynnydd i'r Grant Cynnal Refeniw. Nododd Aelodau hefyd nad oedd yn debygol y byddai unrhyw gynnydd i'r Grant Cynnal Refeniw yn talu'r pwysau chwyddiannol presennol.

16. Cadarnhaodd Jon y dylid rhewi'r elfen a gedwir o ddyraniad haen uchaf CLlLC ar gyfer 2023-24. Defnyddir y cyllid hwn i gefnogi Data Cymru, y tîm Bwyd Mewn Ysgolion, cyngor Cyflogaeth a Gweithlu gan y Gymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol, cyllid ar gyfer Cyfarwyddwyr Gwarchod y Cyhoedd, a chefnogi mentrau amrywiol o fewn CLlLC, gan gynnwys y Tîm Digidol.

17. Gofynnodd Jon i aelodau am eu barn ynghylch Cyrff Penodol, gan gynnwys cyrff / digwyddiadau diwylliannol megis yr Eisteddfod Genedlaethol, Sioe Amaethyddol Frenhinol Cymru ac Eisteddfod yr Urdd yn derbyn y cynnydd lleiaf yn y Setliad ar hyn o bryd.

18. Soniodd Jon hefyd am gyrff gwasanaethau cymdeithasol cenedlaethol gan gynnwys y Gwasanaeth Mabwysiadu Cenedlaethol, Maethu Cymru a'r Prosiect 'Reflect'. Nododd Jon y ffigurau yn Atodiad 1 i'r adroddiad, sy'n dangos bod cyllid ar gyfer y Prosiect 'Reflect' wedi'i rewi ar £60,000 a bod cynnydd o 4% wedi'i nodi ar gyfer y Gwasanaeth Mabwysiadu Cenedlaethol a Maethu Cymru ar hyn o bryd (cynnydd tâl a ragwelir i weithwyr). Nododd fod y ddau'n cael eu cynnal gan Gyngor Caerdydd ac roedd gwall wedi bod yn yr ad-daliadau a wnaed i Gaerdydd, sy'n golygu bod angen £100,000 i dalu am y diffyg hanesyddol. Mae hyn wedi arwain at gynnydd o 14% i'r haen uchaf, ac nid oedd Jon yn credu bod modd osgoi'r costau hyn.

19. Nododd Jon fod y Gwasanaeth Mabwysiadu Cenedlaethol a Maethu Cymru wedi amlygu pwysau (dros £300,000) y tu hwnt i'r costau y soniwyd amdanynt, sy'n cael eu hystyried gan Lywodraeth Cymru ar hyn o bryd. Nododd, os nad oedd Llywodraeth Cymru'n cytuno i dalu'r rhain, byddai'r Gwasanaeth Mabwysiadu Cenedlaethol a Maethu Cymru angen y dyraniad haen uchaf i dalu'r costau - a fyddai'n benderfyniad i'r aelodau yn y dyfodol. Nododd Jon fod trafodaethau dwys

wedi'u cynnal gyda'r Gwasanaeth Mabwysiadu Cenedlaethol ynghylch ar gyfer beth gellid defnyddio'r dyraniad haen uchaf. Nododd Naomi bod rhan o'r costau hyn yn talu am yr ymgyrch farchnata i recriwtio gofalwyr maeth newydd a denu pobl sy'n awyddus i fabwysiadu.

20. Amlygodd y Cynghorydd Morgan na ddylai unrhyw gynnydd i'r Grant Cynnal Refeniw yn sgil gwaith lobïo gan y CLlLC gyda Gweinidogion a Llywodraeth Cymru gael eu cysylltu'n awtomatig gyda'r cynyddiadau i'r cyrff amrywiol. Dylid nodi cyfanswm yr arian sydd ei angen ar sefydliadau/cyrff a thrafod p'un a yw aelodau'n dymuno ariannu hynny neu ddim.

21. Nododd Jon nad oedd dull y Cynghorydd Morgan yn cael ei adlewyrchu yn y papur gan fod angen iddo roi awgrym cynnar i Lywodraeth Cymru wrth iddynt baratoi ar gyfer y Setliad, a dywedodd y dylid cymryd mai'r rhagdybiaethau blaenorol sy'n berthnasol. Eglurodd y bydd cyfle rhwng y setliad dros dro a'r setliad terfynol i weld y ffigwr gan ystyried y cynnydd mewn tâl yn unig.

22. Rhoddodd Jon wybod y disgwylir i baramedrau cyffredinol cyllideb CLlLC gael eu cyflwyno i Fwrdd Gweithredol CLlLC ar 16 Rhagfyr (wythnos nesaf) a bydd sgyrsiau'n parhau nes bydd cyllideb CLlLC wedi'i chymeradwyo ym mis Mawrth 2023.

23. Nododd Chris nad oeddent wedi gweld sefyllfa fel hyn o'r blaen mewn perthynas â digwyddiadau diwylliannol, a nododd, dros y blynyddoedd diwethaf ac yn ystod caledi, fod y digwyddiadau diwylliannol hyn hefyd wedi wynebu toriadau i'w cyllid. Nododd Chris fod y cynnydd o 9.4% yn setliad y llynedd ar gyfer ariannu pwysau a oedd yn wynebu gwasanaethau llywodraeth leol megis gofal cymdeithasol ac addysg nad ydynt yn cael effaith ar y digwyddiadau diwylliannol ac y byddant yn deall safbwynt aelodau.

24. Penderfynwyd:

24.1 Bod aelodau'n cytuno ag egwyddorion y gyllideb; a

24.2 Bod aelodau'n cytuno â'r dull ar gyfer brigdorri gan gynnwys cyllid ychwanegol ar gyfer y Gwasanaeth Mabwysiadu Cenedlaethol a Maethu Cymru.

Eitem 5: Polisi Cyfraddau Milltiroedd CLlLC

25. Cyflwynodd Karen Higgins, Pennaeth y Gweithlu a'r Rheolwr Busnes Gweithredol, yr adroddiad sy'n cynnig newidiadau i ddarpariaethau Polisi Teithio a Chynhaliaeth CLlLC o fewn Polisi Gweithio Hyblyg CLlLC mewn perthynas â hawliadau milltiroedd ar gyfer siwrneiau busnes. Gofynnwyd i aelodau am eu barn a'u cymeradwyaeth ar ddau newid arfaethedig.

26. Nododd Karen fod y newid arfaethedig cyntaf yn ddiwygiad dros dro i'r polisi er mwyn mabwysiadu'r protocol cyfradd milltiroedd sydd wedi galluogi staff i hawlio 5c ychwanegol pan fydd cyfraddau tanwydd yn uwch na'r trothwy cytunedig, a nododd fod y protocol eisoes yn cytuno ag undebau llafur.

27. O ran yr ail newid arfaethedig, nododd Karen fod Polisi Gweithio Hyblyg newydd CLILC wedi cael ei gytuno gan aelodau yng nghyfarfod Is-bwyllgor Rheoli CLILC ar 20 Awst 2021. Cydnabuwyd ar y pryd y byddai'r polisi newydd yn arwain at newidiadau sylweddol parhaol i'r ffordd mae staff CLILC yn gweithio ac roedd hyn yn cynnwys newidiadau sylweddol i rai o amodau'r gwasanaeth.

28. Cyflwynwyd y polisi newydd gan CLILC ym mis Medi 2021 ac ymhlith ei ddarpariaethau, roedd yn cynnwys trefniadau diwygiedig ar gyfer teithio a chynhaliaeth (milltiroedd car, prydau a llety dros nos).

29. Nododd Karen fod CLILC yn sefydliad Cymru gyfan sy'n awyddus i recriwtio o bob cwr o Gymru, ac felly mae angen i staff deithio i bob rhan o Gymru ac i ardaloedd awdurdodau lleol gwahanol yn ystod eu cyflogaeth. Rhoddwyd gwybod mai dim ond nawr, wrth i staff deithio at ddibenion busnes a mynychu rhagor o gyfarfodydd wyneb yn wyneb y caiff yr elfen o deithio a chynhaliaeth yn y polisi ei harbrofi.

30. O ganlyniad i ragor o gyfarfodydd wyneb yn wyneb, amlygwyd problem gyda'r elfen o filltiroedd yn y polisi, fel y mae wedi'i ddrafftio ar hyn o bryd, yn arbennig y gofyniad i ddidynnu milltiroedd cymudo o siwrneiau busnes. Tynnwyd sylw aelodau at baragraff 10 yn yr adroddiad sy'n amlinellu'r pwyntiau perthnasol.

31. Trafododd Aelodau'r mater a theimlwyd bod angen ystyried y mater cymhleth hwn ymhellach.

32. Penderfynwyd:

31.1 Bod aelodau'n cytuno y dylid diwygio polisi milltiroedd CLILC dros dro, a mabwysiadu'r protocol cyfradd milltiroedd dros dro i alluogi staff i hawlio 5c ychwanegol y filltir tan 31 Mawrth 2023; a

31.2 Bod aelodau'n cytuno y dylid ystyried y cynnig mewn perthynas â'r gofyniad i ddidynnu milltiroedd cymudo o filltiroedd busnes ymhellach ac y dylid cyflwyno adroddiad i gyfarfod o'r pwyllgor hwn yn y dyfodol.

Diwedd y Cyfarfod

Minutes

WLGA Management Sub-Committee

9th December 2022
Via Zoom

PRESENT:	
Deputy Presiding Officer	Cllr Jane Mudd (Newport) Cllr Andrew Morgan (Rhondda Cynon Taf) Cllr Rob Stewart (Swansea) Cllr Dyfrig Siencyn (Gwynedd) Cllr Llinos Medi (Isle of Anglesey) Cllr Anthony Hunt (Torfaen) Cllr Lis Burnett (Vale of Glamorgan) Cllr Ian Robert (Flintshire) Cllr Huw Thomas (Cardiff)
APOLOGIES:	Cllr Huw David (Bridgend), WLGA Presiding Officer Cllr Charlie McCoubrey (Conwy) Cllr David Simpson (Pembrokeshire) Cllr Mark Pritchard (Wrexham)
ALSO PRESENT:	Chris Llewelyn, Naomi Alleyne, Jon Rae, Daniel Hurford, Sharon Davies, Karen Higgins, Lee Pitt, Nathan Gardner and Lynwen Davies (Interpreter)
IN ATTENDANCE:	Thelma Stober, LGA Corporate Legal Adviser

Item 1: Welcome and apologies

1. The Deputy Presiding Officer, Cllr Jane Mudd, welcomed members to the meeting and apologies were noted as above.

Item2: CONFIDENTIAL Covid-19 Inquiry: WLGA Evidence Submission

This report is not for publication as it contains information of the description set out in the paragraphs 20.7 and 20.8 of the WLGA Constitution as the WLGA Management Sub-Committee "…is preparing itself to take evidence from or meet with any person." As a COVID-19 Core Participant, the WLGA is also in receipt of information shared confidentially by the COVID-19 Inquiry team.

2. **Resolved:**

    2.1 **Members noted the contents of the report and requested that they have access to previously shared WLGA correspondence and minutes from the COVID-19 period; and**

    2.2 **Members agreed that the WLGA Chief Executive submits the Module 1 and Module 2B witness statements to the Covid-19 Inquiry on behalf the WLGA.**

Item 3: Update on Establishing a Company to Host the Joint Inspection Team

3. Naomi Alleyne, Director, Social Services and Housing, introduced the report and noted members had previously agreed to the WLGA hosting a Joint Inspection Team (JIT) on behalf of Welsh Government and to establish a company limited by guarantee to do so.

4. A workshop was held on Monday 7th November, which some leaders had been able to attend which covered: confirming the purpose of the JIT alongside the benefits and legacy intentions; reviewing the risks and mitigations; and arrangements that address the liabilities and identified risks. The feedback and steer given by members at the workshop is reflected in the report.

5. Naomi reported the purpose of the item was to seek members views on a range of issues that need to be agreed in advance before lawyers are engaged to draft the Articles of Association for the company to be established by the WLGA to host a Joint Inspection team.

6. Naomi highlighted to members paragraphs' 6 A to E of the report as matters for their consideration. It was proposed (para 7) that the relevant WLGA Spokespersons for Housing and for Fire and Rescue be invited to be members and one of the posts could chair the Board which provides a direct link back to members through established WLGA governance and reporting structures. Broad roles and responsibilities are set out in paragraphs' 9 and 10.

7. Naomi reported that when the draft Articles of Association are presented to members they will be accompanied by the full budget for the JIT.

8. **Resolved:**

    8.1 **Members noted and commented on the contents of the report;**

    8.2 **Members commented on proposal alternatives and/or support proposals as set out in paras A-E of the report to help inform the drafting of Articles of Association for the company to host the JIT;**

    8.3 **Members agreed to use the fire and rescue footprint to reflect regional representation of members on the JIT Board; and**

8.4 Members agreed to review the draft Articles of Association of the JIT company at the next appropriate meeting.

Item 4: WLGA Budget 2023-24

9. Cllr Jane Mudd declared an interest as a Co-Chair of the Community Safety Network and Cllr Medi declared an interest as an Urdd member.

10. The Chief Executive, Chris Llewelyn, introduced the item and emphasised he wants members to be as involved with the WLGA budget setting process as possible to ensure members have and feel a sense of ownership of the Association. Chris stressed today's meeting is the starting point and asked that members engage as fully as they want until the final approval of the budget in March 2023. He noted there has already been discussion of the WLGA budget with the WLGA Leader and some other leaders.

11. Jon Rae, Finance Director, reported that there had been a discussion of the broad principles of the budget with Cllr Hunt, Finance spokesperson, prior to the meeting. Jon noted the paper covers two matters:

    i) An initial discussion of the assumptions of the WLGA Budget for 2023/24; and
    ii) The approach to top slicing the Revenue Support Grant.

12. Jon noted that in terms of the WLGA budget, the aim of the report is to share some broad parameters for setting the WLGA budget (paragraph 2):

    - Subscriptions – hold flat
    - Retained top slice – hold flat
    - Other top slices based on the annually agreed principles usually determined following the settlement
    - WLGA Reserves – use more proactively to fund short-term pressures and fixed term contracts where prudent to do so. £100k will be used to support the Safer Communities Network in lieu of individual council membership fees request for 2023-24
    - Internally - re-emphasise the voluntary exit and early retirement scheme
    - Pay assumption - @ 4% or whatever the prevailing view is in the wider sector
    - Full Recharges Policy - to apply to grant-funded and top slice-funded teams based within the WLGA

13. Jon clarified the reason subscriptions can be held flat while assuming a 4% pay increase, is due to the application of the 'full recharges' policy which results in £400k income.

14. Jon reported the Triennial Valuation of the pension fund that the WLGA is part of and that the WLGA's balance sheet within the fund is quite healthy and that the employer's contribution rate will come done from 17.6% to 17.2% - which will

positively contribute to the WLGA budget position. The WLGA is due to respond to the pension fund (Merseyside) consultation on its funding strategy.

15. Cllr Morgan, WLGA Leader, agreed with the proposal that subscriptions should be frozen and not linked to the RSG. Cllr Morgan noted that the WLGA budget should be set in line with members priorities and resources allocated accordingly. Cllr Morgan reported that he and the Deputy WLGA Leader, Cllr Stewart, have met with Chris to consider the structure, purpose and priorities of the WLGA going forward and that funding should then be channelled accordingly. Members supported Cllr Morgan's comments in relation to focussing the WLGA's priorities and that that automatic increases to the top slice should be decoupled from any increase to the RSG. Members also noted that any increase to the RSG is unlikely to cover the current inflationary pressures.

16. Jon confirmed that the WLGA retained top slice is to be held flat for 2023-24. This funding is used to support Data Cymru, the Food in Schools team, Employment & Workforce advice from the LGA, funding for Directors of Public Protection, and supports various initiatives within the WLGA, including the Digital Team.

17. Jon then asked members for their views on how they felt the Specified Bodies, including cultural bodies/ events such as the National Eisteddfod, the Royal Welsh Agricultural Show, the Urdd Eisteddfod currently pegged to the lowest increase in the Settlement.

18. Jon then mentioned the national social services bodies including the National Adoption Service (NAS), Foster Wales (FW) and the Reflect Project. Jon noted figures in Annex 1 of the report, where funding for the Reflect Project is held flat at £60k and that the NAS and FW are pegged to a 4% increase (employee projected pay increase). He noted both are hosted by Cardiff Council and there has been an error in the recharges made to Cardiff and this now means £100k is needed to cover the historical shortfall. This results in a 14% increase to the top slice which Jon felt is an unavoidable cost.

19. Jon noted the NAS and FW have highlighted pressures beyond the unavailable costs mentioned, totalling over £300k, which are currently being considered by the Welsh Government. He noted that if the Welsh Government doesn't agree to cover them, NAS and FW will want the top slice to cover the costs – which would be a future decision for members. Jon reported there has been intense discussion with NAS on what the top slice can be asked to fund. Naomi noted that part of these costs cover the marketing campaign to recruit new foster carers and attract those looking to adopt.

20. Cllr Morgan highlighted that any increase to the RSG because of lobbying done by the WLGA with Ministers and the Welsh Government should not automatically be linked to the increases of the various bodies. The cash sum need by these organisations/bodies should be ascertained and then a discussion be had on whether members want fund that or not.

21. Jon noted Cllr Morgan's approach wasn't reflected in the paper as he had to give an early indication to the Welsh Government in preparation for the Settlement and said to assume all previous assumptions apply. He explained there will be an opportunity

between the provisional and final settlement to bring the figure back to only account for the increase in pay.

22. Jon reported the broad paraments of the WLGA budget are due to be initially presented to the WLGA Executive Board on 16th December (next week) and conversations can continue until the WLGA budget is endorsed in March 2023.

23. Chris reported that in relation to the cultural events this has never been the position before, noting, in recent years and during austerity these cultural events have also had cuts to their funding. Chris noted last year's 9.4% settlement increase was to fund pressures facing local government services such as social care and education that don't affect the cultural events and that they will understand the position of members.

24. Resolved:

24.1 Members agreed the budget principles; and

24.2 Members agreed the approach to the top slices including additional funding for the National Adoption Service and Foster Wales.

Item 5: WLGA Mileage Rates Policy

25. Karen Higgins, Head of Workforce and Executive Business Manager, introduced the report which proposes changes to the WLGA Travel and Subsistence provisions within the WLGA Agile Working Policy in respect of mileage claims for business journeys. Members were asked for their views and approval on two proposed changes.

26. Karen identified the first proposed change was a temporary amendment to the policy to adopt the mileage rate protocol which enabled an additional 5p per mile to be claimed by staff when the fuel rates exceeded an agreed threshold, referencing the protocol already agreed with trade unions.

27. With regards the second proposed change Karen noted the new WLGA Agile Working Policy was agreed by members at the WLGA Management Sub-Committee on 20 August 2021. It was recognised at the time, that the new policy would result in permanent major changes to the way in which WLGA staff work and this included some significant changes to some conditions of service.

28. The new policy was introduced by the WLGA in September 2021 and amongst its provisions included revised arrangements for travel and subsistence (car mileage, meals and overnight accommodation).

29. Karen noted that the WLGA is an all-Wales organisation that looks to recruit from across all parts of Wales and the need for staff to travel to all parts of Wales and local authority areas in the course of their employment. It was reported that only now, as staff undertake business journeys and attend more in person meetings that the travel and subsistence element of the policy is now being tested.

30. As a result of more in person meeting, an issue with the mileage element of the policy, as currently drafted, specifically the requirement to deduct commute mileage from business journeys has been highlighted. Members attention was drawn to paragraph 10 of the report detailing the pertinent points.

31. Members discussed the issue and felt further wider consideration was needed of what, is in effect, a complex matter.

32. Resolved:

31.1 Members agreed the WLGA mileage policy should be temporarily amended, and the interim mileage rate protocol adopted to enable staff to claim an additional 5p per mile until 31 March 2023; and

31.2 Members agreed that further consideration be given to the proposal regarding the requirement to deduct ordinary commuting mileage from business mileage and a paper be brought back to a future meeting.

Meeting End