

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 <i>appointed by the Joint Council for Wales</i>	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.