

26<sup>th</sup> November 2021

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## **MINUTES OF WLGA MEETINGS**

### **Purpose**

1 For WLGA Executive Board 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 Council AGM, 24<sup>th</sup> June 2021
- 2.2 WLGA Audit Committee, 7<sup>th</sup> October 2021
- 2.3 WLGA Executive Board, 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2021

### **Recommendations**

3 Members are asked to:

- 3.1 Approve the draft minutes of the WLGA Council AGM, 24<sup>th</sup> June 2021
- 3.2 Note the draft minutes of the WLGA Audit Committee, 7<sup>th</sup> October 2021
- 3.3 Note the draft minutes of the WLGA Executive Board, 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2021

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## **Item 2.1 Draft Minutes**

### **The 26<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the WLGA Council via Zoom**

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> 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

## **Item 1: Welcome from the Chief Executive of the WLGA**

1. The Chief Executive welcomed the members to the 26<sup>th</sup> 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.

<b>Surname</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Authority</b>	<b>Political Affiliation</b>
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
MYTON	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:

	<b>Number of seats</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
<b>Conservative</b>	4	6%
<b>Independent</b>	20	28%
<b>Labour</b>	39	55%
<b>Plaid Cymru</b>	8	11%
<b>Total</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>100</b>

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:

<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>WLGA seats</b>	<b>Use of votes</b>
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
<b>Total number of seats</b>	<b>71</b>	

**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:**

<b>Policy Area</b>	<b>Spokesperson 2021/22</b>	<b>Deputy Spokesperson 2021/22</b>
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 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:**

**27.1 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 follows:

<b>Body:</b>	<b>Positions:</b>	<b>WLGA Representative(s):</b>
<b>POLICY AREA: REGENERATION &amp; SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT</b>		
<b>Wales Biodiversity Partnership</b>	1	Cllr Peter Jones (Swansea) - Lab
		Cllr Alun Williams (Ceredigion) – PC
<b>POLICY AREA: EUROPEAN &amp; INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS</b>		
<b>'CLARE' - Congress of Local Authorities and Regions, Congress, Council of Europe</b>	1	Cllr Hazel Evans (Carmarthenshire) - PC
<b>Committee of the Regions Contact Group</b>	1	Cllr Rob Stewart (Swansea) - Lab
	+ Alt	Cllr Anthony Hunt (Torfaen) - Lab
<b>'CEMR' – Council of European Municipalities and Regions</b>	1	Cllr Linda Evans (Carmarthenshire) - PC
<b>All Wales European Structural &amp; Investment Funds 2014-2020 Programme Monitoring Committee</b>	1	Cllr Rob Stewart (Swansea) - Lab
	+ Officer	Cllr Dyfrig Siencyn (Gwynedd) - PC
		Lowri Gwilym (WLGA)
<b>2014-2020 Ireland Wales Cooperation Programme</b>	2	Cllr Llinos Medi (Anglesey) - PC
		SWW: Cllr Phil Baker (Pembs) - N/A
		NWW: Cllr Ronnie Hughes (Conwy) - Lab
<b>POLICY AREA: LIFELONG LEARNING, LEISURE &amp; INFORMATION</b>		
<b>Cambrian Educational Foundation for Deaf Children</b>	1	Cllr Ellen ap Gwynn (Ceredigion) - PC
<b>Cardiff University Court of Governors</b>	5	Cllr Ross Whiting (Caerphilly) - Lab
		Cllr Sarah Merry (Cardiff) - Lab
		Cllr Susan Elsmore (Cardiff) – Lab
		Cllr Huw Thomas (Cardiff) - Lab

<b>VACANCY</b>		
<b>Play Wales Board of Trustees</b>	1 + Officer	Cllr Huw David (Bridgend) – Lab Catherine Davies (WLGA)
<b>'WJEC' – Welsh Joint Education Committee</b>	'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
<b>British Board of Film Classification</b>	1	Cllr Huw Thomas (Cardiff) - Lab
<b>Disability Sport Forum</b>	1	Cllr Leanne Jones (NPT) – Lab Cllr Sara Jones (Monmouthshire) - Con
<b>National Eisteddfod Court</b>	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)
<b>National Library of Wales Advisory Board</b>	1 + Officer	Cllr Huw Thomas (Cardiff) - Lab Sharon Davies (WLGA)
<b>Urdd Eisteddfod</b>	Officer	Dr Chris Llewelyn (WLGA)
<b>POLICY AREA: EMPLOYMENT</b>		
<b>Fire National Joint Council (NJC)</b>	1 + Sub + Officer	Cllr Philippa Marsden (Caerphilly) – Lab Cllr Maureen Webber (RCT) - Lab Huw Jakeway
<b>National Joint Council (NJC) for Brigade Managers of Local Authority Fire and Rescue Services</b>	1 + Sub	Cllr Philippa Marsden (Caerphilly) – Lab Cllr Maureen Webber (RCT) - Lab

<b>Joint National Committee (JNC) for Coroners</b>	1 + Sub	Cllr Philippa Marsden (Caerphilly) – Lab Cllr Maureen Webber (RCT) – Lab
<b>Joint National Committee (JNC) Local Government Services</b>	1 + Sub	Cllr Philippa Marsden (Caerphilly) – Lab Cllr Maureen Webber (RCT) – Lab
<b>Joint National Committee (JNC) for Craftworkers</b>	1 + Sub	Cllr Philippa Marsden (Caerphilly) – Lab Cllr Maureen Webber (RCT) – Lab
<b>'NARE' – National Association of Regional Employments appointed by the Joint Council for Wales</b>	1 + Sub	Cllr Philippa Marsden (Caerphilly) – Lab Cllr Maureen Webber (RCT) - Lab
<b>'CEEP' appointed by the Joint Council for Wales</b>	2	Cllr Philippa Marsden (Caerphilly) – Lab Cllr Maureen Webber (RCT) - Lab
<b>Joint National Committee (JNC) for CEOs</b>	1 + Sub	Cllr Philippa Marsden (Caerphilly) – Lab Cllr Maureen Webber (RCT) - Lab
<b>Joint National Committee (JNC) for Youth &amp; Community Workers</b>	2	Cllr Philippa Marsden (Newport) – Lab Cllr Ellen ap Gwynn (Ceredigion) – PC
<b>'NEOST' - National Employers Organisation for School Teachers</b>	1 + Sub	Cllr Philippa Marsden (Caerphilly) – Lab Cllr Ellen ap Gwynn (Ceredigion) – PC
<b>Soulbury Committee</b>	1 + Sub	Cllr Philippa Marsden (Caerphilly) – Lab Cllr Ellen ap Gwynn (Ceredigion) – PC

#### POLICY AREA: TRANSPORT

<b>Public Transport Information (PTI) Cymru</b>	1 (sharing)	SW: Cllr Andrew Whitcombe (Caerphilly) - Lab SW: Cllr Philip Evans JP (Conwy) – Ind
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#### POLICY AREA: CORPORATE

<b>LGA Executive</b>	1 + Sub	Cllr Rob Stewart (Swansea) – Lab Cllr Neil Prior (Pembrokeshire) – Ind
<b>Data Cymru Board</b>	8	*NB Cllr Rosemarie Harris (Powys) is an LGA Independent Group member <i>See separate report to the WLGA Council Annual General Meeting 25/6/21</i>

<b>Partnership Council for Wales</b>	22	<i>See separate report to the WLGA Council Annual General Meeting 25/6/21</i>
<b>Finance Sub Group</b>	8	<i>See separate report to the WLGA Council Annual General Meeting 25/6/21</i>
<b>POLICY AREA: FINANCE</b>		
<b>Scheme Advisory Board (Local Government Pension Scheme)</b>	1	Cllr Clive Lloyd (Swansea) - Lab
<b>The Local Authorities Mutual Investment Trust (LAMIT) &amp; The Public Sector Deposit Fund (PSDF)</b>	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 period reported that despite only having the last AGM in November 2020 the intention in holding the AGM now, is to move 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 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2021 marked the 25<sup>th</sup> 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 Government's 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:**

<b>Month</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>WLGA Meeting</b>
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
	<b>05/05/22</b>	<b>Local Government Elections</b>
May	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 26<sup>th</sup> March 2021 were approved.**
- 54.2 The minutes of the WLGA Audit Committee meeting held 15<sup>th</sup> April 2021 were noted.**
- 54.3 The minutes of the WLGA Management Sub-Committee held 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021 were noted.**

## Item 2.2 Draft Minutes

### WLGA Audit Committee

7<sup>th</sup> October 2021 Via Zoom

10:00 to 12:00



**Chair:** Cllr Linda Evans (Carmarthenshire)

**Present:** Cllr Carol Clement-Williams (Neath Port Talbot)  
Cllr Aled Davies (Powys)  
Cllr Christina Leyshon (Rhondda Cynon Taf), Substitute  
Cllr Chris Weaver (Cardiff)  
Cllr Rosemary Harris (Powys)  
Cllr Billy Mullin (Flintshire)

**WLGA Officers:** Dr Chris Llewelyn, Chief Executive  
Jon Rae, Director of Resources  
Daniel Hurford, Head of Policy  
Gaynor Williams, Finance Officer  
Graham Jones, Associate HR Advisor  
Sam Smith, PA to Chief Executive (Host)  
Janet Davies, Administrative Support Officer (Minute Taker)

**Others Present:** Mr Harri Lloyd Davies, Bevan and Buckland LLP  
Dave Parsons, GDPR Officer, Cardiff Council  
Nerys Hurford, Simultaneous Translator

**Apologies:** Cllr Maureen Webber (Rhondda Cynon Taf)

### Item 1 Welcome and Apologies for Absence

1. The Chair, Councillor Linda Evans, welcomed everyone to the meeting of the WLGA Audit Committee and noted apologies as above.

### Item 2 Minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting 15<sup>th</sup> April 2021 and matters arising

2. Members reviewed the draft minutes of the WLGA Audit Committee meeting held 15<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

#### Resolved that:

- 2.1 The minutes of the WLGA Audit Committee, held 15<sup>th</sup> April 2021, were approved.

### **Item 3      Appointment of WLGA External Auditors for 2021-22 (Oral)**

3. Jon Rae proposed that Bevan Buckland be appointed the auditors for 2021/22. It was agreed to conduct a tender exercise to test the market. This audit also covers Data Cymru.

### **Item 4      WLGA Draft Financial Statements 2020-21 CONFIDENTIAL**

4. Following the presentation of the report by Harri Lloyd Davies containing exempt information as defined in Paragraph 20.6.3 of the [WLGA Constitution](#) which is based on Paragraph 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972 (as amended), namely information relating to the financial affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) it was:

#### **Resolved that**

- 4.1    Members noted the update.**

### **Item 5      WLGA Accommodation Review CONFIDENTIAL**

5. Following the presentation of the report by Jon Rae containing exempt information as defined in Paragraph 20.6.3 of the WLGA Constitution which is based on Paragraph 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972 (as amended), namely information relating to the financial affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) it was:

#### **5. Resolved that:**

- 6.1    Members noted the progress and issues arising from the dilapidations work to LGH, 3-8 Drake Walk.**

### **Item 6      Data Protection Compliance Programme Update**

7. Dave Parsons confirmed there had been no reports of any incidents to ICO following the updates/improvements from Microsoft 365. There is a 2-year training compliance this ends in December. Compliance is now at 92%, there is a recommendation to SMT that this should go up to 100%.
8. There will be a new e-learning module for staff available in April 2022.

9. New entrants coming in to the WLGA need compulsory training especially for Data Protection this was then agreed for an update going forward by Carol Clements.
10. Further to point 9 of the report, WLGA need to have Cyber Essential Certification, I also recommend WLGA take the additional element of cyber essentials and take the plus information element as all LA's currently have to comply with cyber essential.

**11. Resolved that:**

**11.1 Members noted the progress over the last 12 months and agreed the recommended next steps**

**Item 7 Treasury Management Report 2020-21**

12. Chair asked if there were any increased risks involved with holding money elsewhere, it was confirmed there was no increased risk.

**13. Resolved that:**

**13.1 Members noted the WLGA Annual Treasury management Report for 2020/21**

**Item 8 Review of Internal Controls and WLGA Financial Regulations**

14. A concern was raised that some individuals have come back and stated they have not read or even know where to find the financial regulation, training was given to all staff 2 years ago, we will be running the finance course again in the new year considering all the new staff the organisation has employed.

**15. Resolved that:**

**15.1 Members noted the progress on the internal control questionnaire and agreed the amendments to the financial recommendations as correct.**

## **Item 9 WLGA Strategic Risk Register**

16. Jon confirmed that none of the inherent or residual risk scores had changed even though there were changes to the cause & effect, mitigation measures and the further action needed on the strategic risk.

### **17. Resolved that:**

- 17.1 Members noted and commented on the contents and requested an update at the April 2022 meeting**

## **Item 10 Audit Committee Future Work Programme**

12. Annex 1 of the report detailed the WLGA Audit Committee Future Work Programme, further to today there will be further addition added.

### **13. Resolved that:**

- 13.1 Members discussed and agreed the work programme including further areas for review.**

**Date of next meeting – April 2022 (tbc dependent on elections)**

## Item 2.3 Draft Minutes



### WLGA Executive Board

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2021**  
**10:00 to 12:30 via Zoom**

#### Present:

**Chair: WLGA Presiding Officer, Cllr Huw David (Bridgend)**

Blaenau Gwent – Cllr Nigel Daniels  
Caerphilly – Cllr Philippa Marsden  
Cardiff – Cllr Huw Thomas  
Carmarthenshire – Sub Cllr David Jenkins  
Ceredigion – Cllr Ellen ap Gwynn  
Conwy – Cllr Charlie McCoubrey  
Flintshire – Cllr Ian Roberts  
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  
Pembrokeshire – Cllr David Simpson  
Powys – Cllr Rosemarie Harris  
Swansea – Cllr Rob Stewart  
Torfaen – Cllr Anthony Hunt  
Vale of Glamorgan – Cllr Neil Moore  
Wrexham – Cllr Mark Pritchard

#### Apologies

Cllr Andrew Morgan – Rhondda Cynon Taf  
Cllr Emlyn Dole – Carmarthenshire  
Cllr Hugh Evans – Denbighshire

#### Additional Members

Cllr Leanne Jones – Neath Port Talbot  
Cllr Carol Clement Williams- Neath Port Talbot

#### 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  
Jonathan Lloyd, Head of Employment  
Lee Pitt, Democratic Services Officer  
Jo Hendy, Head of the Improvement Programme

**10:00      Rebecca Evans MS, Minister for Finance & Local Government and Jane Hutt MS, Minister for Social Justice**

**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 Executive Board 24<sup>th</sup> September 2021

3. **Resolved that:**

**3.1 Members approved the draft minutes of the WLGA Executive Board 24<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

## **Item 3. WLGA Leader's Update and Spokespersons Updates**

4. In the Leader's absence the Deputy Leader, Cllr Rob Stewart, reported that the WLGA Leader is enjoying an overdue and well-deserved break.
5. The Deputy Leader wanted to recognise the distress and shock at the murder of David Amess MP. He confirmed the WLGA has written to Chief Constables and Police and Crime Commissioners to request they contact councils and senior councillors to provide guidance and support. It has already been the subject of gold command discussions earlier this week and again today. The WLGA has also written to authorities to remind them to review their risk assessments on councillor safety and security and to recirculate WLGA guidance on councillors' personal safety, handling intimidation and online abuse. Cllr Stewart noted that in his authority, most Cllrs have had direct phone calls from the police and but asked fellow Cllrs to let the WLGA know if this has not happened in all councils. The Deputy Leader reminded those present that you can request that their home address is removed from councils' websites. However, Declarations of Interest and election returns include home addresses and are publicly available. He reported that the WLGA are looking to see if this can be resolved and to make sure all the relevant legislation protects members from harassment or attack.
6. The Deputy Leader noted there was a meeting earlier in the week of the Finance Sub Group and the Cllr Hunt, Finance Spokesperson would update further later in the meeting.
7. The Deputy Leader noted a paper on social services pressures and one on the real living wage was on the agenda for the meeting. He reminded members that Andrew Morgan and Huw David have been meeting with the Health Minister Eluned Morgan and Deputy Minister for Social Services Julie Morgan on an almost weekly basis to discuss social services pressures. This week's funding announcement was a result of their hard work and lobbying but emphasised that the challenge continues. Cllr Stewart then confirmed that we will take the action

to write to the Minister regarding the issues of inspection when under the biggest pressures we have ever seen.

8. The Leader attended and spoke at the Economic Summit with the Minister for the Economy, business and trade unions. The importance of a 'Team Wales' approach was stressed, as was the importance of retaining and attracting young people to work in Wales in the future. The value of close work during Covid between WG, WLGA, business and unions was seen as a good example of collaborative working that can help ensure a 'well-being economy' - one that recognises the importance of the well-being of people and nature as well as the economy
9. It was confirmed there is still no news on the Community Renewal Fund bids submitted to UKG but we now hope to hear after the Comprehensive Spending Review announcement next week
10. The Deputy Leader noted we have had a response from UKG to a letter sent jointly by Cllrs Stewart, Morgan and John to the previous Secretary of State, Robert Jenrick. The reply came from Neil O'Brien who is now leading on the levelling up agenda for Michael Gove. Copies of that correspondence were circulated to all Leaders and the letter does appear to point to a Member group being established. That would see Leaders put forward by the four associations meeting with the Secretary of State and/or Ministers to discuss the Shared Prosperity Fund. As soon as anything definite is heard on that front, all Leaders will be informed.
11. In relation to climate change and COP 26, Welsh Government will be launching its Net Zero Wales document on 28th October. The commitments that leaders signed up to via Partnership Council and Executive Board have been included as part of the public sector chapter of the document. During COP26 there will be a series of regional roadshows across the UK including one in each region of Wales which will mirror themes under discussion at COP 26, covering energy, nature, adaptation and sustainable transport. After COP26, from 22nd to 26th November Wales Climate Week will be taking place which will include a dedicated session on decarbonisation at the Partnership Council as well as various events on the Wednesday focused on local government.
12. Next week, Welsh Government is expected to make a statement on the number of coal tips in each of the different categories of risk and on the progress being made by the Coal Authority inspecting tips in the highest risk categories. Checks are taking place with Councils to ensure the numbers to be quoted for each match the Council's own figures.
13. Cllr Marsden updated the meeting on workforce issues, noting that it would be remiss not to mention and acknowledge the current workforce pressures that are affecting all services and local authorities and we will be discussing some of these as part of this agenda

14. Regarding the national pay negotiations, the employers side met earlier this week to consider the trades unions rejection of 1.75% offer and their intention to now ballot for industrial action. The employers decided by a majority decision to sit firm with their current and final offer and not enter into any further negotiations. This will undoubtedly result in a delay to the resolution of this years pay deal and may lead to industrial action. Cllr Marsden commented that in her opinion this does not help us manage our current workforce pressures if we cannot provide our workforce with a fair and timely pay increase.
15. Cllr Marsden also informed the meeting that the Joint Council for Wales met last week and was attended by the deputy minister for Social Partnership and a number of fellow Leaders were in attendance and that a very interesting presentation and discussion on decarbonisation took place.
16. Cllr Mudd confirmed that the LGBTQ+ action plan was on the agenda today. She noted it was excellent news that the Minister is establishing a disability taskforce and that WLGA will be invited to be a part of that. She also noted that yesterday WG published their Period Dignity Plan.
17. Cllr Mudd updated on the Diversity and Democracy scheme, noting really good progress had been made with 19 having signed Diverse Council Declarations.
18. Cllr Mudd confirmed she is also working with Women's Equality Network Wales who are looking to support councils around engagement and host an online diversity event.
19. Cllr Mudd noted she wanted to pick up a point on migration for discussion, reminding the meeting that as a LG family we have previously made a collective decision to make resettlement for individual and families as smooth as possible in Wales. She reported that the Home Office, through Clearsprings, are planning to procure the entire accommodation at the Holiday Inn in Newport as well as another Newport hotel and is seeking to locate 300 refugees and asylum seekers in Newport. Cllr Mudd expressed concern that whilst the council is experienced in the quality of service that is provided and the contribution made to people's lives in settling in Newport, but there is concern at such significant numbers and potential implications on policing, health and social care resources, as well as specialist case workers. She confirmed that as a Leader, she plans to write to the Home Office in relation to this but is conscious there is very little that can actually be done. The Home Office say this is a 3-month rolling position, but Cllr Mudd pointed out there isn't the housing to do things at this level. Cllr Mudd felt this was too much for any Council to deal with individually and was seeking support from the wider local government family.
20. There was wide agreement, sympathy and support with the position in Newport, with Cllr Hunt suggesting coordination from the WLGA on this, whilst Cllr Jenkins raised an additional issue, drawing attention to experiences in Carmarthenshire. He commented that the council housed 3 Afghan families in July without knowing what the funding from HO was going to be, but now find themselves in the situation that authorities who housed families prior to September only get 1 year

of financial support whereas after that date, 3 years of funding is given so there is the perverse situation where you are penalised for helping quickly.

21. Cllr Pritchard added that regarding the finance, there is an issue of equality. It doesn't matter when you agree to help a family, all authorities should be renumerated equally. Cllr Pritchard noted that the WLGA family needs to share this burden, all needing to step up to the plate. He asked how many authorities have taken in as a family of 22 and how many can we actually take? He expressed the view that we can and should do more because if we don't, the Home Office will place them anywhere.
22. Following the Executive Board meeting in September, the WLGA wrote to the Home Office stressing the need for early engagement with authorities. There has been no response to the letter as yet, but the WLGA is meeting with the Director General of the Home Office on 1<sup>st</sup> November to discuss the support authorities need. Naomi stated that it is 11 authorities in Wales who would receive the shorter period of funding and it might be useful prior to the meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> November to write again and include the issue of the differential.
23. Cllr Mudd added that a point it may be useful for Chris and Naomi to raise is the only reason we are aware of this issue is through a fire safety risk assessment that was shared by the fire service – a shameful way for the council to find out.
24. Cllr Thomas confirmed Cardiff experience is similar to Newport and noted currently 200-300 individuals are being hosted prior to dispersal and on two occasions, numbers coming to Cardiff were significantly increased with no engagement from the Home Office who block booked hotels. He noted that the way the Home Office is operating is detrimental to what they are trying to achieve for these families and supported the WLGA writing to them again.

25. **ACTIONS**

- **Cllrs to report back if police have not been in contact regarding safety in their council.**
- **WLGA to look into the issue of home addresses on declaration of interests and election returns.**
- **WLGA to write to Home Office re differential in payments to Councils depending on when signing up, highlight the pressures Councils are under and Leaders concerns about not being kept in the loop when housing asylum seekers in local hotels.**

#### **Item 4. The Spending Review and the Local Government Finance Settlement 2022-23**

26. Cllr Hunt introduced the report setting out the current autumn finance timetable ahead of the Chancellor's statement and the Welsh Government draft budget proposals that will be published before Christmas. The implications for the Welsh Government Budget would be known after the announcement of the Spending

Review. While the Spending Review date is sooner than anticipated the Minister had stated the WG announcement dates remain the same.

- 27. Cllr Hunt updated colleagues on the discussion that took place at the Finance Sub Group earlier in the week and drew members attention to the WLGA's paper on spending pressures appended at Annex 1 of the report. Stand still pressures are estimated at around £324m which equates to a settlement uplift of 7% which is a spending increase of around 5%.
- 28. Cllr Hunt drew members' attention to the series of regional engagement events with the Senedd which start in November and go on to December.

**29. Resolved that:**

- 29.1 Members noted the contents of the report.**

**Item 5. Social Services Pressures**

- 30. Naomi Alleyne, Director of Social Services and Housing, introduced the report and drew attention to the final paragraph regarding the 2<sup>nd</sup> November meeting and confirmed the diary invitation went out yesterday.
- 31. Chris Llewelyn noted the ongoing work with Finance Directors to get a full picture of the current social services overspends faced by authorities. He also stressed how important it is when lobbying ministers that local government is clear and consistent with its ask and messaging.
- 32. Cllr Harris reported that at a recent LGA meeting where social services were discussed, there seemed to be a push for integration with health boards. She asked that the issue be considered by members.

**33. Resolved that:**

- 33.1 Members noted and commented on the content of the report;**
- 33.2 Members agreed to continue to share information on pressures at the local level with the WLGA and highlight any issues of concern not included in this report;**
- 33.3 Members agreed to ensure that all efforts are made to spend the funding as specified, if funding is agreed for the proposed national initiatives; and**
- 33.4 Members supported the proposal for a specific meeting on the future of social care in Wales and to support the development of a business case for long-term sustainable funding for social care.**

**Item 6. WLGA Improvement Programme Update**

34. Jo Hendy, Head of Improvement Programme, highlighted key points from the update and specifically the encouraging level of support for the programme from members and authorities. She drew attention to the final few paragraphs of the report which covers the funding situation and the issues being caused to recruitment.

35. **Resolved that:**

- 35.1 Members noted the contents of the report; and**
- 35.2 Members support the efforts of the WLGA to discuss funding options with Welsh Government to secure a more long-term funding solution.**

## **Item 7. LGBTQ+ Action Plan Consultation**

- 36. Cllr Mudd introduced the report and noted it reflects a huge amount of activity in this area and members were asked to agree the response to the consultation.
- 37. Cllr Mudd noted the key issue now is that resources need to be available to support local government to deliver such a bold and ambitious agenda. Currently, there isn't enough capacity and support to deliver the ambitions of the Welsh Government
- 38. Cllr Mudd reminded Members that previously there was funding from the Welsh Government for an Equalities Team based within the WLGA and asked that members support the development of a business case for the reestablishment of the Equalities Team and take that forward with the Ministers.

39. **Resolved that:**

- 39.1 Members approved the WLGA's draft consultation response to the Welsh Government's Draft LGBTQ+ Action Plan (Annex A); and**
- 39.2 Members agreed that a business case for the establishment of a WLGA Equalities Team should be developed and further advanced with Welsh Government through the Spokesperson and Deputy Spokespersons for Equalities, Anti-Poverty and Migration.**

## **Item 8. Joint Committee for the National Adoption Services**

40. **Resolved that:**

- 40.1 Members noted and commented on the contents of the report;**
- 40.2 Members agreed to support the proposal to establish a Joint Committee via the WLGA to provide governance and accountability**

arrangements for the National Adoption Service for Wales and Foster Wales;

40.3 Members agreed to support engagement with local Monitoring Officers to ensure there is collective agreement to the draft Joint Committee Agreement; and

40.4 Members agreed that each local authority should be asked to formally consider these issues and seek approval from their Councils to engage and participate in the proposed Joint Committee.

## **Item 9. Real Living Wage Accreditation**

41. Cllr Marsden, Workforce Spokesperson, introduced the report and noted that while most councils pay the Real Living Wage to their staff there is an issue regarding contractors and urged authorities to seek accreditation. Cllr Medi did raise a concern about affordability in the long term.

42. Jonathan Lloyd, Head of Employment, noted that the workshop aims to address and allay some of the fears authorities may have around accreditation.

43. **Resolved that:**

43.1 Members considered and noted the report;

43.2 Members supported the provision of a (virtual) workshop during Living Wage Week to include a presentation by Cardiff University on community benefits;

43.3 Members agreed that the WLGA should finalise arrangements with Cynnal Cymru; and

43.4 Members agreed that invites be sent to Leaders seeking attendance from all authorities who are not yet accredited.

## **Item 10. WLGA Constitution – Proposed Review**

44. **Resolved that:**

44.1 Members commented on the issues for the Association raised in the report;

44.2 Members agreed to commence a review of the WLGA Constitution; and

44.3 Members agreed to the commissioning of legal advice, to report back to members in due course, setting out options for the delivery and governance of specific services, including the proposed Joint Inspection Team.

## **Item 11. CONFIDENTIAL WLGA HR Matters**

### **Item 11.1 WLGA HR Restructuring**

45. Following the presentation of the report by the Chief Executive containing exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 20.6.3 and 20.6.3 of the [WLGA Constitution](#) which is based on Paragraph 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972 (as amended), namely information relating to the financial affairs of any particular person and information relating to the financial or business affairs of any person (including the authority holding that information) it was:

46. **Resolved that:**

- 46.1 Members approved JL's Early Retirement and Voluntary Retirement request;**
- 46.2 Members approved the terms of JL's Early Retirement and Voluntary Retirement request in accordance with the WLGA's Early Retirement and Severance Scheme;**
- 46.3 Members agreed that the current post of Head of Employment to be deleted from the Association's organisational structure;**
- 46.4 Members approved a new post of Head of Workforce & Executive Business Manager to be created on pay grade scp 52 to 55. The principal duties of this post will be to manage the internal HR service, to lead on external workforce support and to establish and operate a WLGA corporate business management system;**
- 46.5 Members agreed that the Head of Workforce & Executive Business Manager will be a member of the WLGA's Strategic Management Team;**
- 46.6 Members agreed that KH be offered and subsequently assimilated into the post of Head of Workforce & Executive Business Manager in accordance with a timescale to be determined; in the event that KH does not take up the Association's offer, the resulting vacancy to be advertised and an appointment made to this post at the earliest opportunity;**
- 46.7 Members approved a new post of HR Policy Officer (Grade 5) to be created and a suitably qualified and experienced HR professional recruited into the post - (a) to lead the provision of an internal HR service and (b) to support external WLGA workforce support activities;**
- 46.8 Members agreed that the newly constituted HR team will operate on a unified basis to support the development of each individual's HR skills and experience and also to create greater resilience in terms of service delivery;**
- 46.9 Members agreed that Discussions take place with the Local Government Association (LGA) regarding the workforce support received by the WLGA and the associated costs payable; and**

**46.10 Members agreed that paragraph 8.8 of the Association's Early Retirement / Severance Scheme be amended to the effect that all proposed employee exits in accordance with the provisions of the Early Retirement / Severance Scheme will be subject to approval by the Association's Management Sub-Committee (rather than the Executive Board).**

## **Item 11.2 Application for Flexible Retirement**

47. Following the presentation of the report by the Chief Executive containing exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 20.6.3 and 20.6.3 of the [WLGA Constitution](#) which is based on Paragraph 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972 (as amended), namely information relating to the financial affairs of any particular person and information relating to the financial or business affairs of any person (including the authority holding that information) it was:

**48. Resolved that:**

**48.1 Members considered and approved CP's application for Flexible Retirement which has been given approval by the WLGA Senior Management Team.**

**12:30 The Presiding Officer closed the meeting.**