

APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY LEADER, SPOKESPERSONS AND DEPUTY SPOKESPERSONS FOR 2021-22**Purpose**

1. To appoint Deputy Leaders, Spokespersons and Deputy Spokespersons to serve for the Council term 2021-2022.

Background

2. Section 10 of the WLGA Constitution¹ empowers the Council to appoint Senior Office Holders and Spokespersons at each Annual General Meeting:

10.3 The Council shall, at each Annual General Meeting of the Association, appoint a Deputy Leader or Deputy Leaders to support the work of the Leader of the Association.

10.4 The Council may appoint Spokespersons and such Deputy Spokespersons as are required with responsibility to promote the policies of the Association in specified policy areas. Spokespersons, on behalf of the Association, may undertake bilateral meetings with Welsh Government Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers, UK Government Ministers, represent the Association at committees of the Senedd or Parliament, chair meetings of cabinet member forums and fulfil the terms of reference of any relevant WLGA Advisory Group or sub-committee.

10.5 The Council will appoint Spokespersons so that the number of spokescpersons appointed from each political group will so far as is possible reflects the political balance of the Council.

10.6 To ensure that a majority group, or coalition, on the Council can express a majority view if required, such majority group, or coalition, shall have the first choice in appointing Spokespersons.

10.7 Spokespersons may convene meetings of leading members and officers from each Member Council, and with relevant professional bodies to exchange information, inform and review Association policy and report to report back to the Association

3. The WLGA has adopted a collective leadership approach which allows representation and engagement with Ministers to be shared. Such an approach has allowed the WLGA to field a consistent, experienced and team of members at key Welsh Government bi-lateral meetings, Partnership Council, Cabinet Members networks, Senedd Committees

¹ <http://wlga.wales/wlga-constitution>

and Inquiries, and meetings with the Secretary of State for Wales and Members of Parliament. The Group Leaders have also met as a cross party forum for opinion and the facilitation of business.

4. The appointment of Deputy Spokespersons provides for responsibilities and workload to be shared and can provide experience at national level and allow succession planning for other WLGA members. Not all Spokespersons roles have previously incorporated deputy roles. Deputy Spokespersons can be appointed from the same or different groups and authorities as the Spokesperson, in order to appoint members with specific expertise, interests or wider geographical coverage where relevant.
5. Although the First Minister has reshuffled his cabinet following the Senedd elections, Group Leaders have agreed that the Spokespersons structures should not require significant revision, but portfolios will be considered as part of a wider review of governance arrangements for the new Association ahead of the new term.
6. There are several vacancies however following the election of some WLGA Council members to the Senedd in May and changes to authorities' members on the WLGA Council. These vacancies are highlighted in Appendix 1. WLGA Group Leaders have agreed that climate change should be reflected in the portfolios and the WLGA Leader's Transport, Environment and Sustainability brief has been renamed Transport, Environment and Climate Change.
7. The current political balance of Spokespersons and Deputies (not including the WLGA nomination to the LGA Executive Advisory Board) is:

	Spokespersons (number & % per Group)	Deputy Spokespersons (number & % per Group)	WLGA Political Balance (%)
Labour	11.5 / 57.5%	7 / 33%	55%
Independent	1.5 / 7.5%	9 / 43%	28%
Plaid Cymru	5 / 25%	4 / 19%	11%
Conservative	1 / 5%	2 / 10%	6%

Recommendations

8. The Council is invited to:

8.1 Confirm the appointment of a Deputy Leader for the Council term 2021-22.

8.2 Agree the members to undertake the roles of Spokespersons and Deputy Spokespersons for the Council term 2021-22.

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WLGA Spokespersons for the last Council Term to June 2021
Vacancies are highlighted in *Blue*

Policy Area	Spokesperson 2020/21	Deputy Spokesperson 2020/21
Community Safety	Acting Cllr Neil Moore (Vale of Glamorgan) - Labour	Cllr Nigel Smith (Conwy) - Independent
Culture, Sport and Tourism	Cllr Huw Thomas (Cardiff) - Labour	Cllr Peter Hughes Griffiths (Carmarthenshire) – Plaid Cymru
Development Control and Planning	Cllr David Jenkins (Carmarthenshire) - Plaid Cymru	Cllr Ben Gray (Vale of Glamorgan) - Independent
Digital and Innovation	<i>Vacancy</i>	Cllr Neil Prior (Pembrokeshire) - Independent
Economic Development, Europe and 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 and Skills	Cllr Emlyn Dole (Carmarthenshire) - Plaid Cymru	Cllr Julian Thompson Hill (Denbighshire) - Conservative
Equalities and Anti-Poverty	Cllr Susan Elsmore (Cardiff) - Labour <i>in joint role with Vacancy</i>	
Finance and Welfare Reform	Cllr Anthony Hunt (Torfaen) - Labour	Cllr Carol Clement-Williams (Neath Port Talbot) – Labour
Future Generations and Wellbeing	Cllr Llinos Medi (Isle of Anglesey) - Plaid Cymru	Cllr Ray Quant MBE (Ceredigion) - Independent
Health and 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 Ray Quant MBE (Ceredigion) – Independent

Mental Health & Wellbeing	Cllr Jane Mudd (Newport) - Labour	VACANCY – Labour Cllr Lisa Mytton (Merthyr) - Independent
Public Health and 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 Aled Davies (Powys) - Conservative
Transport, Environment and Climate Change	Cllr Andrew Morgan (Rhondda Cynon Taf) - Labour	Transport infrastructure Cllr Edward Latham (Neath Port Talbot) – Labour Waste 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