

## **NOMINATIONS TO THE PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL FOR WALES 2021-22**

### **Purpose**

1. To invite the Council to nominate the members to serve on the Partnership Council for the Council term 2021-22.

### **Background**

2. Section 72 of the Government of Wales Act 2006 requires Welsh Ministers to establish and maintain a body known as the Partnership Council for Wales, this body being intended to promote joint working and co-operation between Welsh Government and local government. This body has long held a strong symbolic value as a means of sustaining central-local relationships and sharing of information.
3. Underneath the Partnership Council, there are also standing and ad hoc sub-groups, notably the Finance Sub-Group, the Local Government Reform Subgroup and a Recovery Subgroup formed during the pandemic, though this group has only met once. As a standing committee, the Finance Sub-Group membership is determined by WLGA Council however membership of ad hoc subgroups (such as the Local Government Reform and Recovery Subgroups) have been agreed via Executive Board.
4. The WLGA's representation of the Partnership Council has previously been the WLGA Leader and the WLGA Presiding Officer and a further seven nominations to reflect the political balance of the WLGA drawn, where possible, on a geographic basis.
5. The National Park Authorities (1 collective representative) and Fire and Rescue Authorities (1 collective representative) also separately nominate representatives to the Partnership Council.
6. Given the significance of the matters under discussion at Partnership Council, the WLGA Council agreed in October that the WLGA should write to the Minister for Housing and Local Government nominating all leaders to be members of the Partnership Council (Appendix 1).
7. The Minister confirmed she was content with this approach until the end of April, but a '...decision concerning membership beyond this period will need to be taken by the administration in power following Senedd elections in May 2021.' (Appendix 2).
8. It is proposed that, subject to WLGA Council views, the WLGA Presiding Officer write to the Minister for Finance and Local Government to confirm that the WLGA wishes to continue to nominate all leaders as members of Partnership Council for the remainder of this term.

9. The Council may wish to nominate members based on the original basis, should the Minister not be in a position to agree to all 22 leaders being members.
10. The WLGA membership of Partnership Council, prior to all leaders being nominated in 2020-21, was:
- Cllr Andrew Morgan, WLGA Leader (Labour)
  - Cllr Huw David, WLGA Presiding Officer (Labour)
  - Cllr Huw Thomas, Cardiff (Labour)
  - Cllr Rob Stewart, Swansea (Labour)
  - Cllr Jane Mudd (Labour)
  - Cllr Hugh Evans, Denbighshire (Independent)
  - Cllr Mair Stephens, Carmarthenshire (Independent)
  - Cllr Ellen ap Gwynn, Ceredigion (Plaid Cymru)
  - Cllr Sam Rowlands, Conwy (Conservative)
11. The Conservative Group will need to nominate a replacement for Cllr Sam Rowlands who has been elected to the Senedd.

## **Recommendations**

### **12. It is recommended that Council:**

**12.1 Agrees all leaders be nominated as WLGA Members of Partnership Council; and**

**12.2 Nominates seven members to be WLGA representatives on Partnership Council (in addition to the Leader and Presiding Officer and in accordance with paragraph 4) and substitute members for each Group, as a reserve option should the Minister not be in a position to agree to membership of all 22 leaders (as per recommendation 12.1).**

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Julie James MS  
 Minister for Housing and Local Government  
 Welsh Parliament  
 Cardiff  
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Dear Julie,

### **WLGA Membership of the Partnership Council for Wales**

The WLGA held its Annual General Meeting at the end of October where it considered the WLGA nominations to the Partnership Council for Wales 2020-21.

As you may recall, during discussions in the Summer it was suggested that it might be appropriate for all leaders to become members of Partnership Council. This would ensure all leaders could be engaged in matters of mutual interest and the accessibility of modern technology allows more members to attend remote meetings more easily.

The WLGA Council considered this approach at the Annual General Meeting and agreed that I should write to you to formally request that all leaders be invited to become members of Partnership Council for the remainder of 2020-21. The WLGA's current Partnership Council membership of 9 members would continue until you are able to consider this request.

I would also like to take the opportunity to extend Council's recognition of your close and constructive engagement with leaders and support for local government during the recent period, it is much appreciated by all members.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

**Councillor Huw David**  
**WLGA Presiding Officer**

Dr Chris Llewelyn  
 Prif Weithredwr  
 Chief Executive

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**Croesawn ohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg a byddwn yn ymateb i ohebiaeth yn yr un iaith.**  
**Ni fydd defnyddio'r naill iaith na'r llall yn arwain at oedi.**

We welcome correspondence in Welsh and English and will respond to correspondence in the same language.  
 Use of either language will not lead to a delay.



**Julie James AS/MS**  
**Y Gweinidog Tai a Llywodraeth Leol**  
**Minister for Housing and Local Government**

Eich cyf/Your ref 201112/LP  
 Ein cyf/Our ref JJ/02983/20

**Llywodraeth Cymru**  
**Welsh Government**

Councillor Huw David  
 WLGA Presiding Officer

daniel.hurford@wlga.gov.uk

2 December 2020

Dear Councillor David,

Thank you for your letter of 12 November regarding WLGA's membership of Partnership Council for Wales and your formal request for all Local Authority Leaders to become members for the remainder of 2020-21.

I have considered your request and in the spirit of maintaining and building upon the close and constructive engagement which has been established over recent months, I confirm that I am content for all Local Authority Leaders to attend any Partnership Council for Wales meeting planned from now until the end of April 2021. A decision concerning membership beyond this period will need to be taken by the administration in power following Senedd elections in May 2021.

My officials are currently in the process of determining a date for the next meeting, which is likely to be held in March.

In addition, I also plan to extend the membership of the Local Government Sub Group of the Partnership Council for Wales to allow all Leaders to attend these meetings for the remainder of 2020-21, which will provide further opportunities for myself and Leaders to engage on the establishment of Corporate Joint Committees. I anticipate the next meeting of the sub group will take place early in the New Year.

I will write to all existing members of the Partnership Council for Wales to inform them of my decision.

Yours sincerely,

**Julie James AS/MS**  
**Y Gweinidog Tai a Llywodraeth Leol**  
**Minister for Housing and Local Government**

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.