

**The 25th Annual General Meeting of the WLGA Council
via MS Teams****Friday 23rd October 2020****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 Sean Morgan (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 Peter Bradbury (Cardiff)
Cllr Susan Elsmore (Cardiff)
Cllr Christopher Weaver (Cardiff)
Cllr Russell Goodway (Cardiff)
Cllr Ellen ap Gwynn (Ceredigion)
Cllr Ray Quant MBE (Ceredigion)
Cllr Sam Rowlands (Conwy)
Cllr Nigel Smith (Conwy)
Cllr Goronwy Edwards (Conwy)
Cllr Hugh Evans OBE (Denbighshire)
Cllr Julian Thompson-Hill (Denbighshire)
Cllr Hugh Evans OBE (Denbighshire)
Cllr Julian Thompson-Hill (Denbighshire)
Cllr Ian Roberts (Flintshire)
Cllr Carolyn Thomas (Flintshire)
Cllr Michelle Perfect (Flintshire)
Cllr Derek Butler (Flintshire)
Cllr Dyfrig Siencyn (Gwynedd)
Cllr Dafydd Meurig (Gwynedd)
Cllr Gareth Thomas (Gwynedd)
Cllr Llinos Medi (Isle of Anglesey)
Cllr Ieuan Williams (Isle of Anglesey)
Cllr Kevin O'Neill (Merthyr Tydfil)
Cllr Lisa Mytton (Merthyr Tydfil)
Cllr Peter Fox OBE (Monmouthshire)
Cllr Robert Greenland (Monmouthshire)

Cllr Rob Jones (Neath Port Talbot)
Cllr Edward Latham (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 Matthew Dorrance (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 Mary Sherwood (Swansea)
Cllr Clive Lloyd (Swansea)
Cllr Mark Thomas (Swansea)
Cllr Anthony Hunt (Torfaen)
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)
Cllr David A Bithell (Wrexham)

Apologies

Cllr Lynda Thorne (Cardiff)
Cllr Sarah Merry (Cardiff)
Cllr Mair Stephens (Carmarthenshire)
Cllr Andrea Lewis (Swansea)

Associate Members

Cllr Peter Lewis
Cllr Tudor Davies
Cllr Gareth Thomas

Representing Associate Member bodies:

Other Members in attendance

Cllr Colin Mann (Caerphilly)

WLGA Officers

Dr Chris Llewelyn, Chief Executive

Jon Rae, Director of Resources

Dr Tim Peppin, Director of Regeneration & Sustainable Development

Daniel Hurford, Head of Policy (Improvement and Governance)

Dilwyn Jones, Communications Officer

Lee Pitt, Democratic Services Officer

Item 1: Welcome from the Chief Executive of the WLGA

1. The Chief Executive welcomed the members to the 25th Annual General Meeting of the WLGA Council and the first to be held remotely.

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 2020-21.

3. Resolved that:

- 3.1 **Cllr Huw David be elected WLGA Presiding Officer for the 2020-21 council term.**
- 3.2 **The following were duly elected as Deputy Presiding Officers for the Council term 2020-2021:**
 - **Councillor Jane Mudd (Labour Group);**
 - **Councillor Ray Quant MBE (Independent Group);**
 - **Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn (Plaid Cymru Group); and**
 - **Councillor Sam Rowlands (Conservative Group).**

4. Councillor Huw David, WLGA Presiding Officer, assumed the role of chair from this point of the meeting.

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 202-21 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
BUTLER	Cllr Derek	Flintshire	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 Dai	Blaenau Gwent	Independent
DOLE	Cllr Emlyn	Carmarthenshire	Plaid Cymru
DORRANCE	Cllr Matthew	Powys	Labour
EDWARDS	Cllr Goronwy O	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
FOX, OBE	Cllr Peter	Monmouthshire	Conservative
GEORGE	Cllr Nigel	Caerphilly	Labour
GOODWAY	Cllr Russell	Cardiff	Labour
GRAY	Cllr Ben	Vale of Glamorgan	Independent
GREEN	Cllr Cheryl	Bridgend	Independent Alliance rep
GREENLAND	Cllr Robert	Monmouthshire	Conservative
HARRIS	Cllr Rosemarie	Powys	Independent
HUNT	Cllr Anthony	Torfaen	Labour
JEAVONS	Cllr Roger	Newport	Labour
JENKINS	Cllr David M	Carmarthenshire	Plaid Cymru
JONES	Cllr Rob G	Neath Port Talbot	Labour
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
LLOYD	Cllr Clive	Swansea	Labour
MARSDEN	Cllr Phillipa	Caerphilly	Labour
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
MORGAN	Cllr Sean	Caerphilly	Labour
MUDD	Cllr Jane	Newport	Labour
MYTON	Cllr Lisa	Merthyr Tydfil	Independent
O'NEILL	Cllr Kevin	Merthyr Tydfil	Independent
PERFECT	Cllr Michelle	Flintshire	Labour
PRIOR	Cllr Neil	Pembrokeshire	Independent
PRITCHARD	Cllr Mark	Wrexham	Independent
QUANT, MBE	Cllr Ray	Ceredigion	Independent
ROBERTS	Cllr Ian	Flintshire	Labour
ROWLANDS	Cllr Sam	Conwy	Conservative
SHERWOOD	Cllr Mary	Swansea	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 Carolyn	Flintshire	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 2020-21 is as indicated below:

	Number of seats	Percentage (%)
Conservative	5	7.04
Independent	18	25.35
Labour	40	56.34
Plaid Cymru	8	11.27
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	One per person
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 2020-2021 was noted;**
- 8.2 The political balance of the WLGA Council for the council term 2020-2021 was noted;**
- 8.3 The manner in which local authorities in full membership are to express their votes for the council term 2019-2020 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 2020-21, 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 Sam Rowlands	Conservative
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 Kevin O'Neill	Independent
Monmouthshire CC	Cllr Peter Fox OBE	Conservative
Neath Port Talbot CBC	Cllr Rob G Jones	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 2020-21 is:

Labour Group - 10	Independent Group - 6	Plaid Cymru - 4	Conservative Group – 2
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11. Resolved that:

11.1 The membership of the WLGA Executive Board for the Council term 2020-2021 was duly noted.

Item 5: Recognition of Leader

12. The WLGA Council received the report setting out the constitutional position in terms of the recognition of the WLGA Leader.

13. Resolved that:

13.1 Members recognised Councillor Andrew Morgan (Rhondda Cynon Taf), Leader of the WLGA Labour Group, as the Leader of the Association for the council term 2020-2021.

14. Councillor Morgan thanked Council members for their continued support since he was first elected WLGA leader last November.

15. Cllr Morgan highlighted the challenges that local authorities have faced since then, including the current public health crisis, and the role local government has played in responding to those challenges. He also thanked the other Leaders, especially Group Leaders, and members for their hard work, effort and commitment particularly over the last eight months.

16. Cllr Morgan also said that local government has shown the Welsh Government its value and the vital part it plays in delivering the government's policies. He reported that during recent months relationships with the Welsh Government were positive and acknowledged the constructive engagement with Julie James MS, Minister for Housing and Local Government throughout the pandemic.

17. He also stressed that next year's budget had not been finalised yet and the continuing pressures and demands on council staff, the commitment and contribution of whom he and all leaders were particularly proud of.

18. Individually, the WLGA Group Leaders thanked Cllr Morgan for his leadership, dedication and hard work on behalf of local government across Wales and acknowledged that the relationship with Welsh Government had never been so good.

Item 6: Appointment of Deputy Leader and Spokespersons

19. 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.

20. Resolved that:

20.1 Members confirmed the appointment of Councillor Rob Stewart as Deputy Leader of the Association for the council term 2020-2021; and

20.2 Members confirmed those members who would fulfil the roles of Spokespersons and Deputy Spokespersons for the council term 2020-2021 as set out in the following table:

Policy Area	Spokesperson 2020/21	Deputy Spokesperson 2020/21
Community Safety	Cllr Rob Jones (Neath Port Talbot) - Labour	Cllr Kevin O'Neill (Merthyr Tydfil) - Independent
Culture, Sport and Tourism	Cllr Huw Thomas (Cardiff) - Labour	Cllr Peter Hughes Griffiths (Carmarthenshire)
Development Control and Planning	Cllr David Jenkins (Carmarthenshire) - Plaid Cymru	Cllr Ben Gray (Vale of Glamorgan) - Independent
Digital and Innovation	Cllr Peter Fox (Monmouthshire) - Conservative	Cllr Neil Prior (Pembrokeshire) - Independent
Economic Development, Europe and Energy	Cllr Rob Stewart (Swansea) - Labour	1. Cllr Paul Miller (Pembrokeshire) - Labour 2. Cllr Rob Bevan (Rhondda Cynon Taf) - Labour
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, Welfare Reform and Anti-Poverty	1. Cllr Susan Elsmore (Cardiff) - Labour <i>in joint role with</i> 2. Cllr Mary Sherwood (Swansea) - Labour	
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	Cllr Carolyn Thomas (Flintshire) – 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 Sustainability	Cllr Andrew Morgan (Rhondda Cynon Taf) - Labour	Transport infrastructure Cllr Edward Latham (Neath Port Talbot) – Labour Waste 1. Cllr Ray Quant MBE (Ceredigion) – Independent 2.
Welsh Language	Cllr Ellen ap Gwynn (Ceredigion) – Plaid Cymru	Vacant (not previously filled)
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

21. Cllr Hugh Evans noted that it was important that Deputy Spokespersons are engaged in the work of the Association in support of Spokespersons.

22. It was noted that there remained two Deputy Spokesperson vacancies under Economic Development, Europe and Energy. Cllr Goronwy Edwards (Conwy, Independent) expressed an interest in being considered for the role and Cllr Ellen ap Gwynn (Ceredigion, Plaid Cymru) asked that the vacancies be discussed following the meeting.

Item 7: Appointment of Management Sub Committee

23. Members were invited to determine the membership of Management Sub Committee for the period up to the 2021 WLGA Annual General Meeting in accordance with paragraph 11 of the WLGA Constitution and taking particular account of the representation required from all political groups.

24. Resolved that:

24.1 Members agreed the following membership for the Management Sub Committee for the Council term 2020-2021:

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 Sam Rowlands	Deputy Presiding Officer (Conservative)	Conwy
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 Peter Fox OBE	Leader of the Conservative Group	Monmouthshire
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

25. Members were invited to determine the membership and Chair of the WLGA Audit Committee for the council term 2020-2021.

26. Resolved that:

26.1 Members agreed the following membership for the Audit Committee for the Council term 2020-2021 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 Julian Thompson-Hill, Denbighshire (Conservative)
Cllr Maureen Webber, Rhondda Cynon Taf (Labour)**

Item 9: Nominations to Partnership Council

27. 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).

28. **Resolved that:**

28.1 Members agreed the WLGA Presiding Officer would write to the Minister for Housing and Local Government to ask that all 22 leaders become members of Partnership Council. Partnership Council also agreed that the existing 9 WLGA nominations would remain as an alternative, should the Minister not be in a position to agree that all leaders become members.

Item 10: Nominations to the Finance Sub-Group

29. **The WLGA Council was invited to nominate members to serve on the Finance Sub-Group.**

30. **Resolved that:**

30.1 The following members were nominated to serve on the Finance Sub -Group for the council term 2020-2021:

- Councillor Andrew Morgan, Leader of the WLGA, Rhondda Cynon Taf (Labour)
- Councillor Anthony Hunt, WLGA Spokesperson for Finance, Torfaen (Labour)
- Councillor Rob Stewart, Deputy Leader of the WLGA, Swansea (Labour)
- Councillor Carol Clement-Williams, Deputy Spokesperson for Finance, Neath Port Talbot (Labour)
- Councillor Paul Miller, Pembrokeshire (Labour)
- Councillor Peter Fox OBE, Monmouthshire (Conservative)
- Councillor Mark Pritchard, Wrexham (Independent)
- Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn, Gwynedd (Plaid Cymru)

Item 11: Appointments to the Board of Data Cymru

31. 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.

32. Resolved that:

32.1 The following members were appointed to the Data Cymru Board for 2020-2021.

- 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, Denbighshire (Conservative)

Company Secretary: Dr Chris Llewelyn

Item 12: WLGA Annual Report 2019-20

33. Members received the WLGA Annual Report for 2019-20, noting it covered a longer time frame than usual, June 2019 to October 2020, in order to cover the latest activity in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

34. Member reflected on how well local government has responded during this time and highlighted the vital services provided by councils that are relied on by people at a time of crisis and when they are in need. The importance of local democratic accountability and local leadership when making key decisions affecting communities was acknowledged. Members also recognised the contribution and ongoing commitment of the local government workforce during this period.

35. Resolved that:

35.1 Members noted the WLGA's Annual Report for 2019-20.

35.2 Members agreed that the WLGA issue a press release recognising and the local government workforce for their role in responding to the pandemic.

Item 13: WLGA Business Plan 2020-21

36. Members received the WLGA Business Plan for 2020-2021. The Chief Executive emphasised that while the pandemic would dominate the work of the WLGA for the remainder of 2020 and into 2021, the existing WLGA priorities - detailed in the plan - would continue to be the focus of the Association's work.

37. Members noted that the plan was high-level and could only give a summary of the work of the Association, for example, the wider work around the implementation of the new socio-economic duty, diversity in democracy and the work of the migration support unit. Members thanked WLGA officers for all the support provided throughout the year in terms of briefings and advice. The uniquely wide-ranging role of the WLGA was highlighted with the Association being asked continuously for a view on every aspect of public life.

38. **Resolved that:**

38.1 Members noted and supported the WLGA Business Plan for 2020-2021.

Item 14: WLGA Manifesto

39. Council members were asked to agree the WLGA Manifesto for the 2021 Senedd elections.

40. The Chief Executive echoed the comments of members and thanked the staff of the Association for their hard work.

41. He explained that the Manifesto had been informed and considered by leaders and spokespersons and was being presented to Council for approval, but that if there were any comments or observations members would like to make, they would be incorporated into the document.

42. Members expressed support for the Manifesto which was regarded as providing a clear case for promoting local democracy and local government. Members suggested that there needed to be some additional emphasis to the importance of culture, leisure and the arts, the Welsh language and benefits and welfare and additional points in the social services section

43. **Resolved that:**

43.1 Members agreed to approve the WLGA Manifesto, subject to the suggested additions and amendments.

Item 15: Annual Report of the WLGA Audit Committee 2019-20

44. Members received the Annual Report of the WLGA Audit Committee for 2019-2020.

45. **Resolved that:**

45.1 Members endorsed the Annual Report of the WLGA Audit Committee for 2019-20.

Item 16: WLGA Financial Statements 2019-20

46. Members received the following for review:

- The Audit Findings Report March 2020; and
- The Auditor's Letter of Representation;

And approval:

- The WLGA Strategic Report, Report of the Chief Executive and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2020: and
- The Consolidated Statement of Accounts for the WLGA and Data Cymru for the year ended 31 March 2020.

47. **Resolved that:**

47.1 Members approved the WLGA Financial Statements 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. Members reviewed a report setting out the Audit Committee's proposals for the WLGA's Members Allowances Scheme for WLGA Office Holders for the council term 2020-2021 to be aligned with any Senior Salary increases determined in the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales' Annual Report for 2021 and that a an independent review of allowances be commissioned for implementation for the new Association from May 2022.

50. **Resolved that:**

50.1 Members agreed to amend the current WLGA Members' Allowances Scheme in line with the WLGA Audit Committee's recommendation; and

50.2 Members agreed to commission an independent review of the Scheme for implementation from 2022-23.

Item 18: Schedule of Political Meetings

51. Council received a report setting out a proposed schedule of WLGA political meetings in 2021.

52. **Resolved that:**

52:1 Members approved the following schedule of WLGA political meetings for 2021:

Month	Date	WLGA Meeting
January	29/01/21	Executive Board
February	26/02/21	Management Sub-Committee
March	26/03/21	WLGA Council
April	15/04/21	Audit Committee
	23/04/21	Management Sub-Committee
May	28/05/21	Executive Board
June	25/06/21	WLGA Council 26 th AGM
July	16/07/21	Executive Board
August		
September	24/09/21	WLGA Council
October	07/10/21	Audit Committee
	22/10/21	Executive Board
November	26/11/21	WLGA Council
December	16/12/21	Management Sub-Committee

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 25th November 2019 were approved.

54.2 The minutes of the WLGA Audit Committee meeting held 9th April 2020 were noted.

Meeting closed

WLGA Executive Board meeting – 13th November 2020

The following is taken from the Notes of the meeting

Blaenau Gwent – Cllr Nigel Daniels Bridgend – Cllr Huw David Caerphilly – Cllr Philippa Marsden Cardiff – Cllr Huw Thomas Ceredigion – Cllr Ellen ap Gwynn Conwy – Cllr Sam Rowlands Denbighshire – Cllr Hugh Evans Flintshire – Cllr Ian Roberts Gwynedd – Cllr Dyfrig Siencyn Isle of Anglesey – Cllr Llinos Medi Merthyr Tydfil – Cllr Kevin O'Neill Monmouthshire – Cllr Peter Fox Neath Port Talbot – Cllr Rob Jones Newport – Cllr Jane Mudd Rhondda Cynon Taf – Cllr Andrew Morgan Swansea – Cllr Rob Stewart Torfaen – Cllr Anthony Hunt Vale of Glamorgan – Cllr Neil Moore Wrexham – Cllr Mark Pritchard	<p>WLGA Officials</p> <p>WLGA – Chris Llewelyn WLGA – Daniel Hurford WLGA – Naomi Alleyne WLGA – Tim Peppin WLGA – Sharon Davies WLGA – Simon Wilkinson WLGA – Lowri Gwilym</p> <p>Apologies</p> <p>Carmarthenshire – Cllr Emlyn Dole Pembrokeshire – Cllr David Simpson Powys – Cllr Rosemarie Harris</p>
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Chaired by Cllr Huw David, WLGA Presiding Officer

Item 1: Revised Framework for Regional Investment in Wales – report circulated in advance of the meeting

- This was initially discussed at the Leaders' meeting on Friday 6th November. Members had concerns about how the draft was presented, including some prescription and premature reference to CJs.
- During the course of the week WLGA officials have been working with WG seeking to address concerns raised by Leaders and agree revisions to the draft document.
- The framework document has been revised considerably, including stressing continued role of current city and growth deal arrangements and the need for interventions to support rural economy.
- The revised draft had been discussed by Chairs of City and Growth Deals and members of Huw Irranca-Davies National Framework group, which includes WLGA's Spokesperson, Cllr Stewart, on Wednesday and their recommendation was that the draft Framework be approved by Leaders.

Points Raised

- Several leaders expressed appreciation at the work of officers and agreed that the draft Framework was an improved document and should be endorsed.
- Some proposed improvements were noted:
 - including strengthening of the section on the rural economy to recognise needs and opportunities; and
 - balancing the reference to rural support with inner-city deprivation
 - **ACTION – WLGA to seek to amend the draft Framework to reflect these comments**
- Some leaders expressed concern at the proposed draft:
 - The reference to CJC's added another layer of bureaucracy and would undermine democracy as leaders should be taking decisions.
 - It was clarified that the Bill and the draft regulations state that CJC's will be Leaders only. Leaders through CJC's once established can decide to invite other members (such as cabinet members) or other partners to be part of the CJC or sub-committee. They can be non-voting or voting members.
 - The framework promoted a regional approach, whereby the WLGA promotes localism so we should be promoting a local authority led approach to this framework rather than regional or CJC-led.
 - If the framework outlined for all SPF to go to WG and then to regions, this could see a top down approach whereby councils and regions deliver national priorities.
 - It was noted that councils need to be prepared if UK Government decide to fund down to the regions.
 - The chart in the framework outlined a hierarchical model with LAs at the bottom. WG being only conduit into UKG was problematic and the relationship can be set out far more equally.
- It was noted that some Leaders have been party to discussions chaired by Huw Irranca-Davies MS – trying to put a framework in place to take the place of EU frameworks. If money goes to WG there is a framework in place for how the funding is to be used – WEFO will no longer be there. The framework gives democratic control over what happens at a regional level.
- It was confirmed that WG intended to publish framework on Tuesday before Spending Review
- Given the disagreement on the draft Framework, it was moved that the recommendation was voted upon (proposed by Cllr Rob Stewart and seconded by Cllr Ellen ap Gwynn).

Report Recommendation:

Leaders are invited to approve the Revised Framework for Regional Investment in Wales (Annex B) as approved and endorsed by the Regional Chairs.

Vote

For: 15	Against: 3
Cllr Nigel Daniels, Blaenau Gwent	Cllr Sam Rowlands, Conwy
Cllr Huw David, Bridgend	Cllr Hugh Evans, Denbighshire
Cllr Philippa Marsden, Caerphilly	Cllr Mark Pritchard, Wrexham
Cllr Ellen ap Gwynn, Ceredigion	
Cllr Ian Roberts, Flintshire	
Cllr Dyfrig Siencyn, Gwynedd	
Cllr Llinos Medi, Isle of Anglesey	
Cllr Kevin O'Neill, Merthyr Tydfil	
Cllr Peter Fox, Monmouthshire	
Cllr Rob Jones, Neath Port Talbot	
Cllr Jane Mudd, Newport	
Cllr Andrew Morgan, Rhondda Cynon Taf	
Cllr Rob Stewart, Swansea	
Cllr Anthony Hunt, Torfaen	
Cllr Neil Moore, Vale of Glamorgan	
Not Present for vote:	
Cllr Huw Thomas, Cardiff (participated in the debate but left the meeting before the vote)	