

2.3 WLGA Management Sub-Committee

Draft Minutes Friday 23rd April 2021
10:00 to 11:30 via Zoom



Present:

Chair: WLGA Deputy Presiding Officer, Cllr J Mudd (Newport)

Cllr H David (Bridgend), WLGA Presiding Officer
Cllr Andrew Morgan (Rhondda Cynon Taf)
Cllr Philippa Marsden (Caerphilly)
Cllr H Evans OBE (Denbighshire)
Cllr Peter Fox OBE (Monmouthshire)
Cllr E Dole (Carmarthenshire)
Cllr R Quant MBE (Ceredigion)
Cllr Huw Thomas (Cardiff)

Apologies for Absence:

Cllr R Stewart (Swansea)
Cllr D Siencyn (Gwynedd)
Cllr Ian Roberts (Flintshire)
Cllr S Rowlands (Conwy)

WLGA Officers in Attendance:

Dr Chris Llewelyn, Chief Executive
Andrew Stephens, Executive Director, Data Cymru
Naomi Alleyne, Director of Social Services & Housing
Jon Rae, Director of Resources
Daniel Hurford, Head of Policy Improvement & Governance
Richard Dooner,
Lee Pitt, Democratic Services Officer

Item 1. Welcome and apologies for absence

1. The Presiding Officer had difficulty joining the meeting and the Deputy Presiding Officer, Cllr Jane Mudd chaired the meeting.
2. Apologies for absence were accepted and recorded as above.
3. The Chief Executive reported that both Cllr Stewart and Cllr Roberts, although absent from the meeting, had approved the Accommodation paper recommendations.

Item 2. WLGA's Future Accommodation Arrangements
CONFIDENTIAL

4. Following the presentation of the report by the Director of Resources 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**

- 5.1 Members noted the progress on arrangements for acquiring and moving to new accommodation space at One Canal Parade; and**
- 5.2 Members approved the draft Agreement for Lease.**

Item 3. Draft WLGA HR Policies: **CONFIDENTIAL**

6. Following the presentation of the report by Graham Jones, the WLGA's Independent HR Adviser, containing exempt information as defined in Paragraph 20.6.4 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 any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the Association or its Member Authorities or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under, the Association; it was:

7. **Resolved that**

- 7.1 Members approved the WLGA Early Retirement / Severance Scheme as set out.**
- 7.2 Members approves the WLGA Flexible Retirement Policy and Procedure as set out.**
- 7.3 Members approved the WLGA LGPS Employer's Discretionary Decisions Policy Statement as set out.**

Item 4. WLGA Consultation Response to Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Bill

8. Cllr Marsden introduced the report seeking approval for the proposed WLGA response to the consultation on the Social Partnership & Public Procurement (Wales) Bill. The bill seeks to strengthen and promote consistency in the Welsh system of social partnership, to deliver fair work outcomes, and to ensure socially responsible public procurement.
9. Cllr Marsden noted the WLGA response to the questions laid out are fair and that the proposed Bill was positive but could go further in terms of procurement. She asked that a cover letter and summary accompany the response, in addition, to the answering the questions asked would be more appropriate.
10. Jon confirmed that would happen and that comments were still be received from professional colleagues and networks in local authorities would be incorporated. He noted there was board support but some issue, for example 'what is fair work?' He noted that Bill looks like enabling legislation and more detail will come after in regulations and guidance.
11. Chris reported that about a year ago the Executive Board took the decision to support social partnership and that this is a flagship piece of legislation for the Welsh Government. Throughout the pandemic the Leader has joined the Shadow Social Partnership Council on behalf of the WLGA and Cllr Marsden has chaired the Schools Social Partnership Forum which has played a pivotal role between local authorities and teaching unions in managing the return to school after the various lockdowns. He noted that social partnership delivers better services and outcomes for service users who are able to input more effectively and those delivering services should be partners in decision being made. The WLGA has been a member of the WLGA Workforce Partnership Council for many years. The Bill takes the approach a step further. Leaders agreed last year in principle to support the Bill, but the detail will be important.
12. Cllr Marsden noted that the last year has demonstrated that all partners need to be around the table and the Bill will allow local authorities to exert their influence further.
13. Graham noted that the WLGA has been a long-standing advocate of social partnership and welcome it as a start of a long journey.
14. Richard Dooner, Programme Manager WLGA, noted that at first glance a lot of what is proposed is already with local authorities' policies but acknowledge the detail was yet to be seen. He also mentioned the inter relation between

policies such as the Future Generations Act and Social Services & Wellbeing ACT and queries remain.

15. Chris confirmed that a cover letter would routinely accompany all WLGA consultations but will highlight the success of the last twelve months reflecting the long track record of local government and the WLGA working in social partnership. The Leader being member Shadow Social Partnership Council on behalf of the WLGA and Cllr Marsden's role chairing the Schools Social Partnership Forum and the important contribution they have made to the Covid response. Along with the work of local government generally during this time – including the provision of face coverings in schools and the wider procurement work with NHS Shared Services.
16. Resolved that:

16.1 Members noted the report and agreed to submit a cover letter

11:30 The Deputy Presiding officer closed the meeting.