DRAFT WLGA PUBLICATIONS

Purpose


Corporate Strategy

2. Management Sub Committee endorsed the draft WLGA Corporate Strategy (Annex A) at its meeting on 3rd May 2019.

3. The Corporate Strategy summarises the WLGA’s purpose, aims, priorities and values and incorporates aspects from previous strategic documents, such as the WLGA Manifesto “Localism 2016-21 – a plan for public services in Wales”.

4. The WLGA’s leadership has embarked on a process to review and reaffirm the strategic focus and direction of the WLGA and changes in senior management have provided an opportunity to reflect on and realign organisational capacity in the delivery of members’ priorities and strategic intent.

5. At the January meeting of the WLGA Executive Board, members considered a new approach to communications and negotiation of the local government Settlement. Management Sub Committee have since endorsed a new Communications Strategy that will seek to support the delivery of members’ ambitions as well as enhance communications with members more broadly across Wales authorities.

6. Management Sub Committee also agreed that the Chief Executive should review and realign existing internal resources to expand communications and policy capacity to deliver members’ policy priorities.

Business Plan

7. The draft Business Plan for 2019-20 (Annex B) seeks to translate the approach and aspirations outlined in the Corporate Strategy into a set of deliverable priorities for the coming municipal year.

8. Members’ views are therefore sought on the priorities included in the draft Business Plan under the following core themes:
Local Leadership, Freedom and Flexibility: Councils are respected, empowered and have the freedom and flexibility to respond to local needs

Finance: Financial reform and fair funding for local services

Schools, Skills and Lifelong Learning: National education standards delivered at a local level

Health and Social Care: Ensuring good quality and sustainable social care services for the future

Housing and Community Safety: Creating good quality homes and safer communities for people to live and work

Environment: Local services shaped by community and environmental need

Jobs, Regeneration and Preparing for Brexit: Local councils supporting inclusive growth locally, regionally and nationally in light of Brexit outcomes and Wales' future relations with Europe and beyond

Annual Report

9. The draft WLGA Annual Report for 2018-19 (covering the period June to May) is included in Annex C.

10. Continued austerity, the challenges of preparing for the uncertainty of Brexit and a continued Welsh Government focus on local government reform have dominated WLGA business during 2018-19, as has managing developing relations with the Welsh Government during a change in First Minister and a subsequent cabinet reshuffle.

11. The WLGA has delivered on many of its core aims and priorities during the year and has also taken stock, through a new Corporate Strategy and Communications Strategy, and committed to refocusing organisational capacity and approach to deliver persuasive and proactive campaigns during future years.

12. In negotiating the settlement and presenting a case for fair and sustainable local government funding, an additional £60m for 2019-20 was achieved above the indicative figure published at the time of the draft 2018-19 announcement and many of the cuts envisaged for specific grants were reversed. The WLGA also successfully lobbied Welsh Government and UK Government to ensure
School Teachers Pay Award and Pensions for Fire Service and teachers were funded by central government.

13. The WLGA has also helped shape the local government reform agenda, rejecting the merger proposals in the Local Government Reform Green Paper and jointly convening the Reform Working Group chaired by Derek Vaughan.

14. Through the Reform Working Group, local government has demonstrated its continued commitment to collaborative reform and has agreed a framework of principles to underpin collaborative reform going forward.

15. Following Executive Board’s discussions, the draft publications will be revised and presented to the WLGA Council at the Annual General Meeting on 14th June 2019.

Recommendations

16. Members are invited to review and comment on the draft WLGA Corporate Strategy, draft Business Plan and Annual Report.

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About Us

The Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) represents the interests of local government and promotes local democracy in Wales.

Our aim is to **promote, protect, support and develop democratic local government** and the interests of local authorities in Wales.

We are a politically led cross party organisation that seeks to give local government a strong voice at a national level. The WLGA is a membership organisation that represents all 22 local authorities in Wales, the 3 fire and rescue authorities and the 3 national park authorities are associate members.

We believe that services are best provided within a democratic framework of local accountability and that the people who use public services should have as much of a say in the way they are organised, managed and funded as possible. Local government is seen as being the tier of government closest to service users and best able to respond to their needs. We support the role of the Welsh Government in setting the strategy for public services nationally but believe that it is down to local government to interpret strategy to deliver services based on local circumstances and local priorities.

Originally established in 1996, primarily as a policy development and representative body, we have since developed into an organisation that also provides improvement support, leads on employment issues and hosts a range of partner bodies supporting local government.

How we work

We are a cross party organisation and our decision-making arrangements are politically balanced, reflecting the combined political composition of the members appointed by local authorities.

We are a member-led organisation and our activities and priorities are agreed through our main decision-making bodies, the **Council** - comprising 71 members proportionately representing the populations they serve - and the **Executive Board** - comprising the 22 council leaders. Through these mechanisms, there is a direct link between our governance arrangements and every individual voter in Wales. Electors vote for their councillors in the local government elections; the elected
councillors in turn form governing administrations and elect a leader, and those leaders and councillors are elected on to the WLGA Council and Executive Board.

Elected members are at the heart of policy and decision making within the WLGA. Through the Executive Board and Council, members determine our priorities and activities and agree an annual Business Plan and receive an Annual Report.

Although Labour forms the largest group within the WLGA and holds the post of Leader and Deputy Leaders, we operate on the basis of consensus across the political groups including Independents, Conservative and Plaid Cymru. Leaders and other WLGA Council Members act as Spokespersons for the WLGA covering a range of local government services or portfolios. These portfolio areas cover all aspects of local government service ranging from finance, education and social services to libraries and leisure.

We are recognised under the statutory Local Government Partnership Scheme derived from the Government of Wales Act 2006 as the negotiating body representing local government. Thus, WLGA Spokespersons represent the whole of local government in discussions and negotiations with the Welsh Government, the UK Government and all other national partners in their particular service areas. In addition, a small team of officers provide professional expertise and support to assist in the lobbying, improvement and policy development process.

Much of our work is focused on the National Assembly for Wales, the Welsh Government and other national stakeholders and partners. We also liaise with the Wales Office and UK Government and works closely with the LGA in London in seeking to influence non-devolved policies and legislation and, in particular, responding to developments around Brexit.

Our work involves engagement with Ministers, National Assembly Members, and other national and governmental organisations. We promote the important role of local government to Assembly Members and seek to enhance and protect councils’ reputation and secure positive change to legislation. The WLGA’s lobbying work is therefore extensive.

Our key areas of work on behalf of local government include:

- Bilateral meetings between WLGA Spokespersons and Ministers;
- Pre and post-legislative scrutiny with the National Assembly for Wales, UK Parliament and the European Parliament;
- Policy development and joint working with the Welsh Government and UK Government;
- Championing, promoting and sharing council’s contributions, achievements and innovations;
- Engaging with the workforce unions and professional networks and associations;
• Working with the various Inspectorates in Wales;
• Providing Improvement Support including Peer Review and Member Development and Training and promoting good practice;
• Arranging conferences, seminars, workshops and training events;
• The publication of reports, guidance documents and on-line resources; and
• Communications, press work, and social media.

We also host and deliver a range of national programmes or services on behalf of local government, many of which are funded through Welsh Government or UK Government grants. These include the National Exercise Referral Scheme, Service Children in Education Project, School Holiday Enrichment Programme, Waste Improvement, Autism Spectrum Disorder Team and the Wales Strategic Migration Partnership.

Our Values

Our primary purposes are to promote better local government, to promote its reputation and to support authorities in the development of policies and priorities which will improve public service and democracy.

In working towards its primary purposes, we seek to be:

• **Ambitious** in our expectations and in our vision for local democracy and local services
• **Accountable** to our members and member authorities
• **Proactive** in our defence and promotion of local democracy, our policy development and our engagement with members
• **Receptive** through listening to and considering the range of views of our membership, partners and stakeholders
• **Responsive** through our services and support to our members and member authorities
• **Collaborative** in our approach to governance and partnership working with Welsh Government and other stakeholders

We also work towards upholding and promoting equality, diversity and human rights; including promoting diversity in democracy and supporting councillors in their role as democratically elected local representatives.

We are committed to equality and fairness and although we are not a statutory body, we operate in the spirit of legislation such as the Equalities Act, Freedom of
Information Act and the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act. We champion and promote the Welsh language and are subject to Welsh Language Standards.

Our Aims and Priorities

Our priorities are underpinned by our core aims to secure:

- **Reform, continuous improvement and a commitment to partnership** - we believe in local government reform and seeking continuous improvement as a process for delivering better outcomes and services for the people of Wales, and in ensuring that resources are used as effectively and as efficiently as possible. A continued commitment to partnership working in Wales is essential to ensure that local government and the Welsh Government work together, based on clear principles of mutual respect and understanding, in order to deliver better outcomes for the people of Wales. We lead and support collaborative local public service reform and improvement and ensure that the governance of regional services is democratically accountable and, wherever possible, streamlined;

- **Fair and flexible funding** - councils need greater fiscal autonomy and flexibility to respond to local needs and priorities. Specific grants should be transferred into the settlement, after an agreed period of time, and the Welsh Government should fully cost and fund any new national initiatives and/or legislation and should commit to multiyear financial settlements so councils can plan more effectively;

- **Commitment to the principle of Subsidiarity** - the Welsh Government and the National Assembly should commit to the European Charter of Local Self Government and the principle of subsidiarity, where the presumption is that power is transferred to the level of government closest to the people. The Welsh Government has a clear national strategic role, but councils want to see momentum behind the devolution of powers beyond Cardiff Bay to local government and to local communities.

We will also:

- **Promote the role and prominence of councillors and council leaders**, emphasising their equal democratic mandate with national politicians.
- **Ensure maximum local discretion in legislation or statutory guidance** where councils and regions have flexibility in determining regional priorities, services and governance arrangements.
- **Promote sector-led improvement**, with an emphasis around digital and innovation, supporting authorities in sharing best practice, developing workforce skills and developing a new corporate peer review programme.
- Encourage a vibrant local democracy, promoting greater diversity and enhanced democratic engagement and supporting councillors’ development and training.
- Support authorities to effectively manage their workforce through our role as the Employers’ Organisation.

An organisation that is fit for purpose

Continued austerity and sustained budget cuts are all placing council services under huge financial pressure. Austerity has also impacted on our organisation. Whilst we have been able to maintain the staffing levels necessary to continue to deliver on our work, capacity for organisational development has reduced and management and back office functions have been streamlined.

The WLGA has always placed a strong emphasis on doing things efficiently and delivering value for money and we will continue with this approach. We will also look to align existing capacity as closely as possible to the business needs of the organisation and we will make further efficiencies in our processes, in particular, using new and emerging technologies.

Accountability and transparency are core principles of the WLGA. Our formal meetings are held in public and all corporate documents, such as our budget, pay policy statement, members’ allowances and all meeting documents are available publicly, where appropriate.

The members of the WLGA Management Sub Committee oversee the organisation’s management in relation to financial, legal and contractual matters. The members of the WLGA Audit Committee have overall responsibility for monitoring the integrity of the financial statements of the organisation and for overseeing internal control and risk management systems.

To be successful in delivering on the WLGA’s values, aims and priorities, we will be rigorous and tireless in everything that we do. A renewed focus on campaigning, lobbying and public affairs along with a continuing adherence to the needs and priorities of local authorities and other members will shape and inform our work. This will inevitably require us to be agile and responsive, reflecting the dynamic policy setting and the continuous but changing pressures impacting on local government and its partners across Wales.

We will continue to be a member led organisation, always reflecting the priorities and interests of local government and our member organisations. When appropriate, we will seek and encourage collaborative approaches to meeting the campaigning, policy development and service needs of local government and its partners.
The WLGA has a long and valued reputation for effective representation and lobbying and meaningful interventions at all levels of government. This will continue and we will maintain and develop a wide range of skills, knowledge and expertise across the fullest range of local government services and priorities to support this work.

**Our staff**

Our staff continue to be important to us as an organisation and key to the delivery of the ambitions set out in our Corporate Strategy. Our performance appraisal processes will support staff to continually develop on an individual basis while our induction process, Staff Forum and Policy and Information Exchange Group are significant vehicles for collective staff development and engagement. Collective intelligence is vital to us and we value every staff member’s contribution to the continued success of the organisation. We will therefore encourage and support staff in achieving their individual personal goals, in improving their skills and knowledge because they are intrinsic to the organisation’s wider success.

The term of this Strategic Plan will see us recruiting new staff, both to fill vacancies as they arise but to refocus resources to support new priorities as the develop in the delivery of our Strategic Plan. Building resilience and limiting reliance on individuals is always a challenge in a small organisation but we will seek to align these challenges with the commitment to be agile and responsive to the needs of members and other partners.

Continued austerity and sustained budget cuts are all placing council services under huge financial pressure and these pressures have also had an impact on the WLGA. We have always placed a strong emphasis on doing things efficiently and delivering value for money, and this will continue under the scrutiny and guidance of our members.
ANNEX B

DRAFT – WLGA Business Plan 2019-20

Introduction

1. The WLGA is a politically led cross party organisation that seeks to give local government a strong voice at a national level.

2. It is a membership organisation that represents all 22 local authorities in Wales, the 3 fire and rescue authorities and the 3 national park authorities as associate members.

3. The WLGA's primary aims are to promote, protect, support and develop democratic local government and the interests of local authorities in Wales.

4. The WLGA's Corporate Strategy 2019-22 sets out the WLGA's values, its governance arrangements and how the organisation operates on behalf of its member authorities.

5. The Corporate Strategy sets out the WLGA's vision that services are best provided within a democratic framework of local accountability and that the people who use public services should have as much of a say in the way they are organised, managed and funded as possible.

6. Local government is the tier of government closest to service users and best able to respond to their needs. Whilst the Welsh Government sets the national strategy for public services, it is for local government to determine local priorities and how best to deliver services based on local circumstances.

WLGA Priorities 2019-20

7. The Corporate Strategy identifies the following core aims:

- **Reform, continuous improvement and a commitment to partnership** - we believe in local government reform and seeking continuous improvement as a process for delivering better outcomes and services for the people of Wales, and in ensuring that resources are used as effectively and as efficiently as possible. A continued commitment to partnership working in Wales is essential to ensure that local government and the Welsh Government work together, based on clear principles of mutual respect and understanding, in order to deliver better outcomes for the people of Wales. We lead and support collaborative local public service reform and improvement and ensure that the governance of regional services is democratically accountable and, wherever possible, streamlined;
• **Fair and flexible funding** - councils need greater fiscal autonomy and flexibility to respond to local needs and priorities. Specific grants should be transferred into the settlement, after an agreed period of time, and the Welsh Government should fully cost and fund any new national initiatives and/or legislation and should commit to multiyear financial settlements so councils can plan more effectively;

• **Commitment to the principle of Subsidiarity** - the Welsh Government and the National Assembly should commit to the European Charter of Local Self Government and the principle of subsidiarity, where the presumption is that power is transferred to the level of government closest to the people. The Welsh Government has a clear national strategic role, but councils want to see momentum behind the devolution of powers beyond Cardiff Bay to local government and to local communities.

8. In seeking to deliver on the Corporate Strategy, the WLGA will prioritise the following themes for 2019-20:

**Local Leadership, Freedom and Flexibility:**
*Councils are respected, empowered and have the freedom and flexibility to respond to local needs*

**Finance:**
*Financial reform and fair funding for local services*

**Schools, Skills and Lifelong Learning:**
*National education standards delivered at a local level*

**Health and Social Care:**
*Ensuring good quality and sustainable social care services for the future*

**Housing and Community Safety:**
*Creating good quality homes and safer communities for people to live and work*

**Regeneration and a Resilient Environment**
*Local councils supporting inclusive growth locally, regionally and nationally and promoting a resilient environment for future generations*
Local Leadership, Freedom and Flexibility

Councillors are respected, empowered and have the freedom and flexibility to respond to local needs

The WLGA will:

1. Champion the role of councillors and council leaders, promote and defend the reputation of local government and drive positive opinion and recognition of councils and their contribution with national partners and with the public.

2. Campaign on behalf of local government to influence the Welsh Government and the National Assembly, to secure flexibilities and powers ensuring councils discretion and flexibility in determining local or regional priorities, services and governance arrangements.

3. Promote collaborative local public service reform and ensure that the governance of regional services is democratically accountable and, wherever possible, streamlined.

4. Develop and coordinate a new sector-led improvement and support programme, with an emphasis around digital, innovation and transformation, supporting good governance, coordinating peer support and a programme of peer challenge and review and provision of intensive corporate or service support to those authorities in most need.

5. Encourage a vibrant local democracy, promoting greater diversity and enhanced democratic engagement and supporting councillors’ development and training through an expanded sector-led improvement programme.

6. Support authorities to effectively manage their workforce through our role as the Employers’ Organisation.

7. Deliver a Brexit Support Programme to local authorities and continue to engage with the other local government associations and Welsh and UK Governments to ensure local government interests are heard and met.

Finance

Financial reform and fair funding for local services

The WLGA will:

1. Lobby for fair and sustainable funding for local public services including evidenced pressures and new responsibilities.
2. Promote greater financial freedoms and flexibilities for councils within a longer-term financial framework and seek a commitment to permanently remove the ‘voluntary’ council tax cap.

3. Continue to work towards the transfer of specific grants into Revenue Support Grant and timely financial announcements.

4. Seek greater powers for councils to explore other sources of income, including taxation and fees and charges.

5. Lobby the UK Government and support authorities to ensure that welfare reforms are fair on our communities.

Schools, Skills and Lifelong Learning

*National education standards delivered at a local level*

The WLGA will:

1. Ensure that local government plays a full role working with partners on the national mission to raise standards in schools and improve outcomes for learners, including the new national curriculum for Wales as it develops;

2. Continue to support investment in the 21st Century Schools programme, and contribute towards refining the model;

3. Provide support to councils in securing full flexibility and local determination for their own and schools’ budgets;

4. Work with new bodies and systems set up to manage and oversee the determination of teacher’s pay and conditions in Wales;

5. Seek to work with and guide Welsh Government in its desire to support schools causing concern, by encouraging each part of the system - schools, local authorities and consortia – to play an appropriate role in schools making and sustaining progress;

6. Contribute towards pupil wellbeing and promote it as a priority for schools and local authorities through WLGA initiatives including those relating to healthy eating and school holiday enrichment programmes (SHEP), as well as aspects of youth support service work;

7. Continue to monitor and scrutinise legislation and funding in relation to children with additional learning needs (ALN).
Health and Social Care

Ensuring good quality and sustainable social care services for the future

The WLGA will:

1. Enable local government’s input and contribution to Welsh Government’s research and policy development on how best to secure long-term sustainable funding for social care services in Wales and feed into the LGA’s campaigning activities to share learning and ensure consistency of core messages.

2. Continue to support implementation of A Healthier Wales, a ten-year plan aimed at transforming and increasing the pace and scale of integration across social care and health, and including other relevant local government services such as housing.

3. Work with Public Health Wales in highlighting local government’s contribution to addressing the wider determinants of health through Building a Healthier Wales and the provision of preventative services provided by local authorities, and continue to convene Cymru Well Wales which aims to tackle the issues that contribute most towards poor health.

4. Support local authorities in responding to and implementing Ministerial priorities for social services, including rebalancing the care market to improve its resilience and sustainability and safely reducing the number of Looked After Children in the care of local authorities.

5. Work closely with our social care partners and professional groups (Solace Cymru, Association of Directors of Social Services in Wales (ADSS Cymru) and Social Care Wales) to strengthen the voice of local government and to identify and highlight common issues of concern and/or improved ways of working.

Housing and Community Safety

Creating good quality homes and safer communities for people to live and work

The WLGA will:

1. Work with local authorities and Welsh Government in implementing relevant recommendations from the Independent Review of Affordable Housing Supply in Wales, including supporting and enabling increased plans for building council houses across Wales and influencing the rent policy for forthcoming years.
2. Contribute to the development and implementation of an action plan on the decarbonisation of existing homes which will follow the current Welsh Government-led review, including identifying resource implications

3. Continue to contribute to on-going work to improve building safety following the findings of the Hackitt Review and work with local authorities and other partners in implementing the findings and recommendations of the Building Safety Expert Group following Welsh Governments’ response on the way forward

4. Continue to highlight and support the work of local authorities in tackling and preventing homelessness and rough sleeping and ensure other services understand their contribution to the need for ‘whole system support’ which is required to support those at risk of homelessness and those who sleep rough

5. Work closely with local authorities and policing in Wales to support and enhance the coherence and planning of community safety work at local and regional levels and in addressing national strategies and priorities through their local arrangements

6. Work with the Fire and Rescue Authorities and Welsh Government to take forward agreed actions aimed at improving their current governance, financial and performance management arrangements

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**Regeneration and a Resilient Environment**

*Local councils supporting inclusive growth locally, regionally and nationally and promoting a resilient environment for future generations*

**The WLGA will:**

1. Continue to lobby for local government input into the development and implementation of Welsh Government’s Economic Action Plan for Wales, bringing together regional proposals with national objectives and supporting the City Deals and Growth Bids.

2. Continue to work through the Rural Forum in championing the needs and priorities of Wales’ rural communities.

3. Continue to lobby for Wales’ fair share of post-EU funding and the devolution of any replacement UK Shared Prosperity Fund monies to support local authorities’ regional partnerships.

4. Lobby to ensure that Extended Producer Responsibility, and any Deposit Return Scheme proposals, maintain local authority control over collections and revenue raised and support a major waste behaviour change public campaign
5. Lobby for new ways of maintaining the highway network (including county and unadopted roads) through a long-term investment programme.

6. Ensure local government input to the new Transport Strategy for Wales, bringing together regional proposals with national objectives and pressing the case for existing regional transport arrangements to form the basis for any move towards Joint Transport Authorities.

7. Support authorities’ in promoting the resilience of ecosystems and contribution to the reduction of carbon emissions aiming for a carbon neutral public sector by 2030.

8. Lobby for greater planning fee flexibility and ensure that local planning authorities have the necessary local powers and discretion around development plans to create sustainable places that reflect the needs of their communities.
Summary - the past year in numbers

1. Although local authorities continue to face funding constraints and the challenges of austerity, our representations to the Welsh Government on the local government revenue settlement and UK Government on wider funding matters helped secure additional funding for local government, including:

For 2018-19:

- A one-off package of revenue and capital of up to £6m to help to meet the repair and clean-up costs associated with Storm Callum;
- An extra £4m revenue to meet social care pressures in 2018-19 bringing the extra funding for social care pressures to £14m this autumn;
- £7.5m revenue to help local authorities meet the cost pressures associated with implementing the teachers’ pay award; and
- An extra £50m capital for local authorities’ general capital fund (the first instalment of a £100m increase over three years).

For 2019-20:

- Successfully lobbied for and renegotiated changes to the intervention rate for the 21st Century Schools programme, as a result the Welsh Government contribution has increased from 50% to 70%.
- All UK funding for teachers’ pay fully passported to local authorities;
- A further £7.5m to help local authorities meet the cost pressures associated with implementing the teachers’ pay award;
- Additional funding of nearly £50m for Teachers and Firefighters pensions;
- An additional £13m in the RSG;
- £1.2m to raise the funding floor so no local authority faces a reduction of more than 0.5%;
- Additional £30m for social care provided without onerous conditions
- Allocating the full £2.3m consequential from the UK Autumn Budget for children’s social services - to help prevent children from being taken into care; and
- An extra £30m capital for the local authorities’ general capital fund (the second instalment of a £100m increase over three years).

For 2020-21:

- An extra £20m capital for the local authorities’ general capital fund (the third instalment of a £100m increase over three years)
2. We have responded to or submitted evidence to 37 Welsh Government consultations, National Assembly Committee or Parliamentary Inquiries.

3. We have championed, defended and promoted the cause of local government in the media, undertaking over 55 television and radio interviews, issuing 29 press releases and over 150 statements to the media. We have gained over 700 twitter followers over the past year (with a total Twitter following of 8514) and our most popular tweet received 27,111 impressions and 103 retweets.

4. We have sought to widen our engagement with members across Wales’ 22 local authorities and our Associate Member Authorities:

- we have delivered 27 training and coaching sessions in local authorities to 126 members this year, all with very positive feedback. 45 further councillors participated in our highly acclaimed Leadership Academy programme for elected members delivered in partnership with the LGA and Academi Wales;

- through the WLGA’s formal meetings and our various cabinet member and other lead member networks, we have engaged a further 300 executive, non-executive members and champions in WLGA business during the year, providing an opportunity to shape WLGA priorities and facilitating engagement between members and Welsh Government Ministers.

5. In seeking to reflect local authority settlements, WLGA subscriptions reduced by 0.5% in 2018-19 (subscription income is down by a quarter since 2009-10, after adjusting for inflation).

**What we have achieved in 2018-19**

**Local Leadership, Freedom and Flexibility**

*Councils are empowered and have the freedom and flexibility to respond to local needs*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What we sought to achieve for our membership</th>
<th>What we have done in 2018-19?</th>
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| Promote the role and prominence of councillors and council leaders, emphasising their equal democratic mandate with national politicians. | • The leadership has been proactive in promoting the role of local government and the contribution of senior members and all councillors with Welsh Government, Assembly Committees, in conference speeches and in media engagements.  
• presented a compelling case for ‘mutual respect and shared responsibility’ and recognition of the equal role of leaders and councillors through the Local |
Government Reform Working Group, chaired by Derek Vaughan.
- WLGA leaders have met with the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales and made the case for adequate remuneration of members.
- championed, defended and promoted the cause of local government in the media, undertaking over 55 television and radio interviews, issuing 29 press releases and over 150 statements to the media. We have gained over 700 twitter followers over the past year (with a total Twitter following of 8514) and our most popular tweet received 27,111 impressions and 103 retweets.
- Developed an ambitious Communications Strategy for 2019-20, including a greater emphasis on member communications.

Seek a partnership concordat with the Welsh Government and a commitment to the European Charter of Local Self Government and the principle of subsidiarity.
- pressed for the adoption of the Charter through the Local Government Reform Working Group, though this was not supported by the Cabinet Secretary.
- Sought commitment from Welsh Government for a revised financial agreement outlining engagement mechanisms, full funding of new responsibilities as and a commitment to transfer grants into the settlement where possible
- committed to providing WLGA political group support from 2019-20 to facilitate constructive engagement and relationships between WLGA political groups and Assembly Groups.

Ensure maximum local discretion in legislation or statutory guidance where councils and regions have flexibility in determining regional priorities, services and governance arrangements.
- Responded to the Welsh Government’s Green Paper on Local Government Reform, rejecting mergers and presenting a compelling case for local and regional collaborative leadership
- Championed local discretion and flexibility in all its responses to government consultations and evidence to Assembly pre-legislative scrutiny;
- Successfully lobbied for greater flexibilities and reduced prescription in revisions to the Local Government (Wales) Bill expected in the autumn of 2019.

Lead and support collaborative local public service reform and ensure that the governance of regional services is democratically accountable and, wherever possible, streamlined.
- Provided joint secretariat and leadership of the Local Government Reform Working Group during 2018-19, which:
  - Committed to collaboration and shared services where there was a clear business case
  - Agreed a framework of principles to underpin collaboration, which included local democratic oversight, a compelling business case and the right of authorities to withdraw from
| Promote sector-led improvement, with an emphasis around digital and innovation, supporting authorities in sharing best practice, developing workforce skills and developing a new corporate peer review programme. | Successfully campaigned for Welsh Government re-committed to and re-investment in sector-led improvement through the WLGA. The Minister for Local Government has committed to fund improvement support through the WLGA from 2019-20.  

- Successfully pressed for a review of strategic partnerships to reduce duplication and streamline arrangements where possible. This joint Welsh Government-WLGA Review will conclude in autumn of 2019.  

- Supported Local Authorities across Wales to jointly determine the future strategy and delivery arrangements for Local Government procurement collaboration.  

- Established a joint working group with One Voice Wales to provide a practical partnership response to the recommendations from the Independent Review of Community and Town Councils.  

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Encourage a vibrant local democracy, promoting greater diversity and enhanced democratic engagement and supporting councillors’ development and training.

- contributed to much of the key diversity research and recommendations produced in Wales including giving evidence to the National Assembly’s Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee Inquiry into Diversity in Local Government; Chwarae Teg’s Gender Equality Review; the evaluation of the Welsh Government’s Diversity in Democracy project and the Electoral Reform Society’s report How Welsh Politics Can Begin to Reflect Wales.
- recruited for a cross party WLGA working group to address diversity in local government and development of a new website to encourage prospective candidates from diverse backgrounds.
- supported local authorities through the Member Development lead member and officer networks and the relaunched local government scrutiny network.
- Awarded 3 councils with renewed Charters for Member Support and Development demonstrating
- Provided 12 training sessions to 111 councillors and 15 coaching sessions enabling personalised support for individual members.
- Delivered the highly-regarded Leadership Academy to 45 councillors, in partnership with the LGA and Academi Wales.
- Supported the Learning@Wales platform to develop and access e-learning for members and the workforce.

Support authorities to effectively manage their workforce through our role as the Employers’ Organisation.

- Supported local authorities with local implementation of National Pay Award including the adoption of the new pay spine and local grading structures.
- Supported the Joint Council for Wales arrangements to assist with good trade union relations.

**Finance**

*Financial reform and fair funding for local services*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What we sought to achieve for our membership</th>
<th>What we have done in 2018-19?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lobby for fair and sustainable funding for local public services including evidenced pressures and new responsibilities.</td>
<td>• Significant and sustained lobbying by the WLGA over the autumn of 2018 secured resource additional to that secured in 2017 for a range of pay issues.</td>
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<td>• Successfully presented the case for additional funding;</td>
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<td>o the core grant settlement for 2019-20 is nearly £60m better than the indicative figure published at the time of the draft 2018-19 announcement</td>
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<td>Promote greater financial freedoms and flexibilities for councils within a longer-term financial framework and seek a commitment to permanently remove the ‘voluntary’ council tax cap.</td>
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| • Continuously argued for greater local discretion and flexibility around council funding and prioritisation  
  - Councils in Wales continued to enjoy greater flexibility in council tax setting policy than any other part of the United Kingdom and have not been subject to an arbitrary cap, councils have been able to consult more closely with their own communities regarding appropriate council tax levels  
  - Provided multi-year forecasts of pressures and supported the Welsh Government in a comprehensive analysis of future health and social care spend  
  - Expanded the evidence base for fair local settlements through funding the Wales Fiscal Analysis who provided authoritative advice on Welsh Government budget options, which was presented to Finance Cabinet Members in July 2018 |

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<tr>
<th>Continue to work towards the transfer of specific grants into Revenue Support Grant and timely financial announcements</th>
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| • Pressed for dehypothecation through consultation responses, Ministerial bilaterals and through Finance Sub Group meetings. Some progress has been achieved, including some transfers, a commitment to a revised financial framework document and the establishment of a Funding Flexibilities pathfinder.  
  • Supported both pathfinder and non-pathfinder authorities that are taking part in the Funding Flexibilities and Extended Flexibilities work as part of the amalgamation of 10 grants into the Early Intervention and Prevention Services Grant; and to work with Welsh Government and other partners towards full flexibility. |

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<tr>
<th>Seek greater powers for councils to explore other sources of income, including taxation and fees and charges.</th>
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<td>• Continued to highlight that local authorities in Wales provide the most effective and efficient means of tax collection – achieving nearly a 98% collection rate and...</td>
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raising over £1.3bn vital funding for local public services.

- Worked on Social Care Levy being progressed with ADSS and WG Health and Social Care Directorate

Lobby the UK Government and support authorities to ensure that welfare reforms are fair on our communities.

- Successfully lobbied for an exemption for Care Leavers to be brought into Council Tax legislation to ensure transparency and consistency.
- Collaborated with all 22 local authorities on the development of a ‘Council Tax Protocol’ which will deliver consistency in approaches to recovery.
- Supported the Wales Centre for Public Policy on their research into ‘Responding to Citizens in Debt to Public services’.
- Facilitated a series of 5 work streams to present evidence based reports to Ministers for consideration in respect of suggested amendments to local taxation legislation.
- Maintained key stakeholder role on the Department for Work and Pensions Steering Group on Universal Credit & Housing Benefit.

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**Schools, Skills and Lifelong Learning**

*National education standards delivered at a local level*

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<tr>
<th>What we sought to achieve for our membership</th>
<th>What we have done in 2018-19?</th>
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<tr>
<td>Continue the national focus on raising standards, improving outcomes for learners and support authorities in breaking the link between poverty and attainment.</td>
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- met regularly with the Cabinet Secretary for Education to lobby on behalf of local government, emphasising that everything a local authority does in education is part of school improvement.  
- lobbied, scrutinised and provided evidence on implementation of the Additional Learning Needs Act, 2018, including consultations on the new ALN Code, and ensuring that children of armed services personnel are considered where appropriate. |
| Work to provide full flexibility for councils and schools to set their budgets locally for pre-16 and 6th form education. | • Continued to represent the interests of local government in education through evidence sessions to National Assembly Committees.  
• Commissioned and managed the data exercise on Elective Home Education, and worked with HMRC on a pilot project with 14 authorities on identifying children missing education.  
• Continued work with consortia challenge and review meetings and all Estyn local authority improvement conferences.  
• Actively participated in the Department for Education & Skills Change Board which oversees implementation of education in Wales.  
• Worked with partners in developing the Childcare Offer in Wales, including contributions to research, and an independent review.  
• Secured additional grant funding for ICT in schools, which has been distributed through local authorities  
• Responded to Welsh Government and other consultations, including:  
  o ‘Our National Mission – a Transformational Curriculum’.  
  o CYPE Committee Review of Progress on New Curriculum.  
  o ‘Healthy Weight- Healthy Wales’.  
• Through bilateral meetings with Welsh Ministers, other partners, evidence sessions and consultation responses, this topic is always presented as a central tenet of local democracy and accountability. |
|---|---|
| Continue to support investment in 21st Century Schools and greater integration with other capital programmes and ensure successful delivery of Band B. | • Successfully lobbied for and renegotiated changes to the intervention rate for the 21st Century Schools programme, as a result the Welsh Government contribution has increased from 50% to 70%.  
• In its first wave of investment, ending in March 2019, over £1.4 billion will have been invested in supporting the rebuild and refurbishment of over 160 schools and colleges across Wales.  
• The second wave of investment for the Programme will begin in April and will play an important role in raising the standards of education across Wales, in line with our national mission.  
• The WLGA participated fully in a review of the current National Model for Regional Working. The exercise was organised and funded by the Welsh Government with |
| schools, governing bodies, the school improvement consortia and local authorities. For example, providing authorities with greater powers over use of school premises for wider community purposes and headteacher and deputy headteacher appointments. | the close cooperation of the WLGA and other education stakeholders.  
- Following the production of a draft revised National Model, the WLGA organised extensive consultation with local authorities and professional networks.  
- The process concluded with the unanimous decision of the 22 local authority portfolio holders for education to reject the revised document. There was a commitment however to continue the dialogue.  
- Continued to lobby for changes in school governance arrangements. |
| Call for a review a range of services that were previously subject to local democratic oversight, including careers service and further education. | The WLGA has participated fully in the developing proposals for post-compulsory age education and training (PCET). The Welsh Government has managed an extensive consultation on arrangements for post-16 provision. The WLGA has consistently opposed the creation of an arms-length national body to fund and organise post-16 provision. The WLGA has consistently made the case for structures such as the City and Growth Deal governance arrangements to be given a greater role in the management, organisation and oversight of all post-16 training and learning. |
| Call for and promote a coordinated strategic approach to the investment in school and community sport facilities as a key contributor to the preventative agenda. | The WLGA has been working with Sport Wales in seeking greater alignment between community sports provision and national strategic policy. The 21st Century Schools programme has an important part to play in increasing access to sport and leisure facilities.  
- Discussions between the WLGA and Sport Wales aimed at capacity building, spreading good practice and learning lessons continue. |
| Support the sustainability of music services including vocal and instrumental tuition and support for the national youth arts ensemble | secured considerable additional funding for music services in all 22 local authorities.  
- Work continues with the Welsh Government, local authority music professionals and education directors to find a more sustainable means of supporting and securing vocal and instrumental service provision.  
- secured additional funding for National Youth Arts Wales (NYAW) to support the various national youth arts ensembles. The WLGA continues to work closely with NYAW to find a sustainable way forward for this provision. |
| Ensure that local government is involved in the process around devolving Teachers Pay and Conditions | Represented local authorities at the Teachers Pay Partnership Forum. Submitted written and oral evidence to the Independent Welsh Pay Review Body. |
### Health and Social Care

*Integration and Investment in preventative services*

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<th>What we sought to achieve for our membership</th>
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| Continue to highlight the financial pressures and impact of demographic changes and rising demand on budgets of both adult and children's services, securing greater investment that ensures vulnerable people are appropriately protected and supported. | - Successfully campained to highlight the important role of social services and the financial challenges faced, producing two position statements jointly with ADSS Cymru, circulated to Assembly Members and the media and via a social media campaign.  
- Regular discussions and lobbying of Welsh Government was undertaken by the Spokespeople and Cabinet Members, supported by WLGA.  
- provided written and verbal evidence to the National Assembly as part of their scrutiny of the draft Welsh Government budget.  
- Secured an additional £50m for 2019-20 to support social care, including support for domiciliary care services, recognising the additional pressures and demand for services. This funding consists of a £30m special grant to local authorities via the Health and Social Services MEG and £20m directly to local authorities through the RSG. An additional £30 million was also allocated to Regional Partnership Boards to help strengthen integrated working and working with the National Adoption Service, an extra £2.3m was also secured for Post Adoption Support. |
| Support the transformation and integration of health and social care as set out in the Parliamentary Review. | - Participated in the Transformation Board overseeing the successful implementation of *A Healthier Wales*, a 10-year Plan for transforming health and social services and improving the health and wellbeing of communities.  
- WLGA Spokespeople and Cabinet Members for Social Services have been in regular dialogue with Welsh Government Ministers through the WLGA Network (SSPG) aimed at supporting local political leadership in taking forward the Plan and transforming services, supported by regular updates and briefings produced by officers. |
| Encourage a focus on preventative and well-being services, based on an improved evidence base with appropriate investment, to help reduce demand on health and social care services. | - continued to work with Public Health Wales in leading Cymru Well Wales, a social movement aimed at securing better health for the people of Wales by focusing on prevention and addressing health determinants, and supporting its key programmes of the First 1000 days and the ACE’s Hub. |
- Committed to expanding capacity through the recruitment of a Wellbeing and Prevention Officer to provide specialist advice and support on all aspects of wellbeing and good practice, and encouraging an increased focus on prevention and early intervention services and their interface with health bodies.

Seek greater local democratic oversight, scrutiny and input into parts of the health service, including relevant health funding streams that can enable greater integrated and joint working with social services; through locating the powers of Community Health Councils (CHCs) within local government; and seeking the transfer of relevant public health functions into local government.

- Successfully made the case for local authorities, through Regional Partnership Boards, to gain influence over funding streams previously decided by health bodies alone, for example, £1.4m of an additional £7.1m to improve the mental health of children and young people will go directly to Regional Partnership Boards to enable shared decision making over spend.

- The potential increased role of local authorities in supporting improved scrutiny of local health services through relocating the functions of Community Health Councils was overtaken by Welsh Government’s decision to create a Health and Social Care Quality Governance Bill to represent the interests of the public in health and social services and to provide assistance to individuals with complaints.

- continued to promote the benefits of locating some public health functions in local authorities but this is not supported at this time by Welsh Government.

Ensure improved linkages and service planning between health, social care and housing, examining and highlighting new models of care and housing with a greater number of services delivered closer to home.

- Advocated the importance of housing’s contribution to improving integration of health and social care in the WLGA’s submission to the Parliamentary Review on Health and Social Care. The Association also participates in the Health and Housing Group facilitated by CHC and PHW. The WLGA has long advocated the inclusion of housing on Regional Partnership Boards as a core member and responded positively to this proposal in Welsh Government’s consultation on changes to the Partnership Regulations of RPBs, highlighting the importance of the strategic housing role.

### Housing and Community Safety

*Increased access to good quality affordable housing & safe, secure and confident local communities*

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| Promote the contribution new council built houses can make to the availability of social and affordable housing in Wales and in achieving the Welsh Government’s target, securing investment for innovative approaches. | • contributed directly to the Independent Review of Affordable Housing Supply in Wales, meeting with the Review Team, participating in and facilitating the involvement of local authority representatives on the various work streams and providing written evidence, with the aim influencing the recommendations.  
• Supported the development of innovative housing in increasing the supply of affordable homes across Wales through the Innovative Housing Programme Steering Group and is supporting. |
| --- | --- |
| Lobby for the removal of the Treasury-imposed cap on housing (HRA) borrowing, allowing Welsh Councils to borrow more for house building and ensure that a sustainable rent policy is in place for the next 5 years. | • Contributed to a successful campaign for the removal of the housing borrowing cap, which was a shared priority through the Housing Pact between the WLGA, Community Housing Cymru and Welsh Government. Representations were made to the UK Government and in October 2018 the Prime Minister announced removal of the HRA borrowing cap as it was proving to be a significant barrier in preventing councils building new homes.  
• Negotiated with Welsh Government in seeking to secure a commitment to a 5-year rent policy, a recommendation from the Independent Review of Affordable Housing Supply and has worked with local authorities in lobbying Welsh Government about rent levels that enables and support more council house building and is affordable for tenants. |
| Support local authorities in responding to the findings and recommendations of the various inquiries following the fire at Grenfell Tower in ensuring that high rise residential buildings are safe places to live. | • Represented local government on the Building Safety Expert Group and actively contributed to the production of *A Roadmap to Safer Buildings in Wales*, which provides informed views and advice to Welsh Government on the applicability of the Hackitt Review in a Welsh context.  
• Reviewed building safety issues, progress and regular updates through regular meetings with local authorities, Fire and Rescue Services and Welsh Government and through WLGA Housing Cabinet Members and Heads of Housing network and the WLGA Fire and Rescue Panel meetings.  
• Submitted written and oral evidence to the National Assembly for Wales Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee on their inquiry into Fire Safety in High Rise Buildings. |
| Ensure an important focus remains on preventing homelessness, including supporting the End Youth Homelessness Campaign, and | • continued to support work to tackle homelessness and rough sleeping and are active members of the End Youth Homelessness Campaign at both strategic and operational levels. The Association is also a member of |
tackling and reducing rough sleeping.

the Ministerial Homelessness Task and Finish Group. Written evidence on rough sleeping was provided to the National Assembly Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee as part of their inquiry into Rough Sleeping in Wales. Regular updates, briefings and discussions on homelessness and rough sleeping are shared with Housing Cabinet Members.

Contribute to the development of a revitalised approach to community safety that reflects the key role local authorities play in keeping communities safe from new and emerging concerns, highlighting the need for long-term sustainable funding.

- jointly funded a Safer Communities Project Manager (with Welsh Government), based in the WLGA, to support and encourage further partnership working on community safety issues at local, regional and national levels, as appropriate. The post is supporting local and joint actions to address national and local priorities related to safer communities, including Serious and Organised Crime and Tackling Serious Violence.
- Contributed to the Safer Communities Programme Board overseeing the implementation of the recommendations following a review of community safety and partnership working in Wales and has also worked closely with local authority officers in helping to re-establish the Wales Association of Community Safety Officers (WACSO).

Support the Fire and Rescue Authorities in working with Welsh Government's review of their governance and funding arrangements; ensuring democratic oversight and accountability is maintained.

- Worked closely with the Fire and Rescue Authorities and Services in responding to the White Paper proposals to reform the governance and financial arrangements of Fire and Rescue Authorities. The WLGA also met with the Minister to express concerns about many of the proposals which would undermine local democratic oversight. The WLGA awaits Welsh Government’s formal response following the consultation.

Environment

*Local services shaped by community and environmental need*

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<th>What we sought to achieve for our membership</th>
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| Lobby for additional enforcement powers for local authorities in relation to householders who do not participate in recycling. | • Commissioned enforcement guidance and provided training sessions for local authorities on enforcement  
• Secured £300k for behaviour change pilot work by local authorities |
<p>| Lobby Welsh Government to investigate, and where appropriate | • Worked with Welsh Government to inform and influence joint Welsh Government/DEFRA consultation |</p>
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<th>Taking forward, measures designed to achieve Enhanced Producer Responsibility.</th>
<th>on Enhanced Producer Responsibility which was issued in February 2019</th>
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| Support efforts to develop the circular economy through the procurement activities of local authorities where the social, environmental and economic benefits can be shown to outweigh the costs. | • Engaged in Infrastructure working group with Welsh Government and Local Partnerships analysing data to identify gaps in reprocessing capacity in Wales for recyclable materials  
• Organised regional meetings with Waste Cabinet members to consider opportunities for investment in new reprocessing facilities  
• Continued to gather and produce waste benchmarking and finance data to support above work |
| Support local authority involvement in energy efficiency initiatives for households and reduction of authorities’ own energy or carbon use. | • Contributed to Welsh Government group on Decarbonisation of Existing Welsh Housing  
• Worked with Energy Savings Trust on their ‘Redress’ programme of financial support for energy efficiency measures (local authorities can partner applicants from voluntary sector) |
| Work with Welsh Government to find new ways of maintaining the highway network to an acceptable standard, including an investment programme and equitable funding of county roads compared to the trunk road network. | • Secured £60m capital over three years from Welsh Government (£20m annually 2018/19 to 2020/21) for public highway refurbishment programme  
• Established a Task and Finish Group with Welsh Government budget to investigate unadopted roads  
• Submitted response and gave verbal evidence to National Assembly committee inquiry on the State of the Roads in Wales |
| Ensure local government input to the new Transport Strategy for Wales, bringing together regional proposals with national objectives and development of Regional Transport Authorities. | • Input to Welsh Government/Transport for Wales workshop of future transport strategy  
• Responded to National Assembly inquiry on the future development of Transport for Wales  
• Facilitated engagement between regional chairs and Transport Cabinet Members to discuss Transport White Paper response, including proposals regarding Joint Transport Authorities. |
| Work with Welsh Government to progress the Coastal Risk Management Programme, offering greater protection against future flood risk. | • Agreed delayed start of Coastal Risk Management Programme by a year to enable local authority proposals to be fully worked up; 25 schemes are now progressing to next stage  
• Represented local government’s views with Welsh Government over the level of financial contribution to Coastal Risk Management Programme required from local authorities  
• Provided guidance, support, materials and training for LAs on the introduction of Sustainable Urban Drainage Schemes (SuDS) |
Press for a review of planning regime, to ensure that local planning authorities have the necessary powers and local discretion around development plans. Continue to press the case for planning fees to be set at a level that adequately reflects costs incurred by planning departments.

- Responded to Law Commission review into the statutory planning framework
- Lobbied for and achieved suspension of key element of TAN1 (which was creating problems for LAs without a five-year supply of housing land)
- Undertook modelling work to enable a review of planning fees

**Jobs, Regeneration and Preparing for Brexit**

*Local councils driving local and regional economic growth and communities’ needs are met post-Brexit*

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<th>What we sought to achieve for our membership</th>
<th>What we have done in 2018-19?</th>
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<tr>
<td>Call for the empowerment of local authorities with a statutory economic development duty, which could allow local and regional coordination.</td>
<td>• Identified use of the proposed power of general competence as an alternative approach (given concerns over having statutory power but no additional resources)</td>
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| Ensure local government’s input into the development and implementation of Welsh Government's Economic Action Plan for Wales, bringing together regional proposals with national objectives. | • Facilitated engagement between Welsh Government Chief Regional Officers and Business Wales officers in WLGA Regeneration Network meeting to discuss ways of improving local government input to Economic Action Plan  
• Organised national co-ordination meeting of chairs of the four regional development bodies with Minister and Deputy Minister |
| Support the work of Cardiff Capital City Region, Swansea Bay City Region, the North Wales Economic Ambition Board and the Growing Mid Wales Partnership and help to ensure co-ordination and sharing of intelligence at national level. | • National co-ordination meeting of four chairs with Welsh Government Ministers (as above) and facilitated pan-regional discussions and information sharing  
• Worked with Northern Ireland LGA in organising and exchange visit of Northern Irish councillors and officers to discuss approaches to City and Growth Deals |
| Continue to work through the Rural Forum in championing the needs and priorities of Wales’ rural communities. | • Held workshop session on rural issues and priorities at WLGA Annual Conference  
• Developed work programme for the Forum and three meetings held  
• Presented local government views of *Brexit and our Land* via bilateral meeting between Minister and Forum Joint chairs |
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<tr>
<th>Engaged Rural Forum in HORIZON 2020 project being undertaken jointly by WLGA and Aberystwyth University looking at urban-rural interface</th>
<th><strong>Lobby for Welsh Government and UK Government investment and support for the tidal lagoon and other strategic projects emerging from the regions.</strong>&lt;br&gt;Responded publicly to UK Government decision not to support the tidal lagoon project (although other avenues still being pursued)</th>
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<td>Continue to lobby for the replacement for EU funding to be at least equal to the amount Wales would have received had the UK not decided to leave the EU (and against any plans to allocate funding based on the Barnett formula).&lt;br&gt;Responded to Welsh Government consultation on regional investment post-Brexit and to National Assembly Finance Committee inquiry&lt;br&gt;Reported to WLGA Council and followed up with letter to Prime Minister seeking commitment to honour funding pledge made during referendum campaign</td>
<td><strong>Lobby for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund monies to be devolved to Wales and then used to support implementation of plans by regional partnerships of local authorities and other sectors.</strong>&lt;br&gt;Submitted evidence to the All Party Parliamentary Group on post-Brexit funding&lt;br&gt;Arranged meeting between LAs and UK Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government/Wales Office representatives on Shared Prosperity Fund&lt;br&gt;Secured commitment from UK Government Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government that Wales would receive a consequential share of the Stronger Towns Fund.</td>
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<td>Continue to push for Welsh Government's regeneration funding (Targeted Regeneration Investment Fund) to be devolved to local authorities working together in regional partnerships.</td>
<td><strong>Secured an initial £150k from Welsh Government’s EU Transition Fund to deliver a Brexit support programme for local authorities&lt;br&gt;Secured a further £1.2m to boost corporate capacity to work on Brexit in local authorities and enable continuation of WLGA support programme&lt;br&gt;Provided a range of Brexit-preparedness support to authorities, including a series of events on the potential impact of Brexit, a Brexit Preparedness Checklist and area/regional profiles for all authorities&lt;br&gt;Involves on a range of Brexit working groups established by Welsh Government, including WLGA spokesperson and officer representatives&lt;br&gt;Established a joint Brexit Preparedness Advisory Panel with Welsh Government, involving a number of Chief Executives and directors from key service areas</strong>&lt;br&gt;Lobbied for devolution of funding at with Minister and new First Minister&lt;br&gt;Discussions ongoing with Welsh Government and Development Bank of Wales over possibility of using transactional capital to support town centre projects</td>
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<td>Proactively engage with the other local government associations and Welsh and UK Governments to ensure an effective voice lobbying on key issues as Brexit negotiations progress and with CEMR to ensure Welsh local government is well-positioned to feed in views on EU policy in future.</td>
<td><strong>Provided a range of Brexit-preparedness support to authorities, including a series of events on the potential impact of Brexit, a Brexit Preparedness Checklist and area/regional profiles for all authorities&lt;br&gt;Involves on a range of Brexit working groups established by Welsh Government, including WLGA spokesperson and officer representatives</strong>&lt;br&gt;Established a joint Brexit Preparedness Advisory Panel with Welsh Government, involving a number of Chief Executives and directors from key service areas</td>
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Presented and discussed Brexit preparations with Cabinets, Senior Management Teams, joint officer-member working groups, Members’ seminars and Council meetings
Maintained regular dialogue with LGA to ensure Welsh local government issues and interests reflected in Department for Exiting the European Union

WLGA Senior Office Holders 2018-19

WLGA Leader Cllr Debbie Wilcox
WLGA Deputy Leader Cllr Aaron Shotton
WLGA Deputy Leader Cllr Rob Stewart
Conservative Group Leader Cllr Peter Fox OBE
Independent Group Leader Cllr Hugh Evans OBE
Plaid Cymru Group Leader Cllr Emlyn Dole
WLGA Presiding Officer Cllr Andrew Morgan
WLGA Deputy Presiding Officer Cllr John W Thomas
WLGA Deputy Presiding Officer Cllr Ray Quant MBE
WLGA Deputy Presiding Officer Cllr Huw David
WLGA Deputy Presiding Officer Cllr Emlyn Dole

WLGA Spokespersons and Deputy Spokespersons 2018-19

Community Safety Cllr Rob Jones

Culture, Tourism and Major Events Cllr Huw Thomas
   Deputy Spokesperson: Cllr Nigel Smith

Digital & Innovation Cllr Peter Fox OBE
   Deputy Spokesperson: Cllr Neil Prior

Economic Development, Europe and Energy Cllr Rob Stewart
   Deputy Spokespersons: Cllr Paul Miller
                         Cllr Anthony Taylor
                         Cllr Rob Bevan
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<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Chairperson</th>
<th>Deputy Spokesperson</th>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Cllr Debbie Wilcox</td>
<td>Cllr Ellen ap Gwynn</td>
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<td>Emploiability and Skills</td>
<td>Cllr Emlyn Dole</td>
<td>Cllr Julian Thompson Hill</td>
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<tr>
<td>Equalities, Welfare Reform and Anti-Poverty</td>
<td>Cllr Susan Elsmore</td>
<td>Cllr Mary Sherwood</td>
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<td>Finance and Resources</td>
<td>Cllr Anthony Hunt</td>
<td>Cllr Mark Whitcutt</td>
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<tr>
<td>Future Generations and Wellbeing</td>
<td>Cllr Llinos Medi</td>
<td>Cllr Ray Quant MBE</td>
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<td>Health and Social Care</td>
<td>Cllr Huw David</td>
<td>Cllr Susan Elsmore</td>
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<td>Deputy Spokesperson (Adults)</td>
<td>Cllr Susan Elsmore</td>
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<td>Deputy Spokesperson (Children)</td>
<td>Cllr Geraint Hopkins</td>
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<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>Cllr Aaron Shotton</td>
<td>Cllr Andrea Lewis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Improvement</td>
<td>Cllr Hugh Evans OBE</td>
<td>Cllr Ray Quant MBE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Planning</td>
<td>Cllr David Jenkins</td>
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<td>Public Health and Regulatory Services</td>
<td>Cllr Dafydd Meurig</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rural Affairs</td>
<td>Cllr Rosemarie Harris</td>
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<td>Deputy Spokesperson</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Cllr Dyfrig Siencyn</td>
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<td>Sport &amp; Leisure</td>
<td>Cllr Gordon Kemp</td>
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<td>Transport, Environment and Sustainability</td>
<td>Cllr Andrew Morgan</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Cllr Ray Quant MBE</td>
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<td>Welsh Language</td>
<td>Cllr Ellen ap Gwynn</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Cllr Geraint Hopkins</td>
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<tr>
<td>Workforce</td>
<td>Cllr David Poole</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Deputy Spokesperson</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Cllr Maureen Webber</td>
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WLGA Executive Board 2018-19

Cllr Nigel Daniels    Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Cllr Huw David      Bridgend County Borough Council
Cllr David Poole    Caerphilly County Borough Council
Cllr Emlyn Dole     Carmarthenshire County Council
Cllr Ellen ap Gwynn  Ceredigion County Council
Cllr Rob Stewart    City and County of Swansea
Cllr Huw Thomas     City of Cardiff Council
Cllr Gareth Jones OBE  Conwy County Borough Council
Cllr Hugh Evans OBE  Denbighshire County Council
Cllr Aaron Shotton  Flintshire County Council
Cllr Dyfrig Siencyn Gwynedd Council
Cllr Llinos Medi    Isle of Anglesey County Council
Cllr Kevin O'Neill  Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council
Cllr Peter Fox OBE  Monmouthshire County Council
Cllr Rob G Jones    Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
Cllr Debbie Wilcox  Newport City Council
Cllr David Simpson  Pembrokeshire County Council
Cllr Rosemarie Harris Powys County Council
Cllr Andrew Morgan  Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
Cllr Anthony Hunt   Torfaen County Borough Council
Cllr John W Thomas  Vale of Glamorgan Council
Cllr Mark Pritchard Wrexham County Borough Council

WLGA Council Membership 2018-19

Cllr Garth Collier    Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Cllr Nigel Daniels    Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Cllr Huw David      Bridgend County Borough Council
Cllr Hywel Williams  Bridgend County Borough Council
Cllr Cheryl Green    Bridgend County Borough Council
Cllr Barbara Jones   Caerphilly County Borough Council
Cllr David Poole    Caerphilly County Borough Council
Cllr Nigel George    Caerphilly County Borough Council
Cllr Sean Morgan     Caerphilly County Borough Council
Cllr David M Jenkins Carmarthenshire County Council
Cllr Emlyn Dole     Carmarthenshire County Council
Cllr Linda Evans    Carmarthenshire County Council
Cllr Mair Stephens  Carmarthenshire County Council
Cllr Ellen ap Gwynn  Ceredigion County Council
Cllr Ray Quant MBE  Ceredigion County Council
Cllr Clive Lloyd     City and County of Swansea
Cllr Andrea Lewis  City and County of Swansea
Cllr Mark Thomas     City and County of Swansea
Cllr Mary Sherwood  City and County of Swansea
Cllr Rob Stewart           City and County of Swansea
Cllr Christopher Weaver    City of Cardiff Council
Cllr Huw Thomas            City of Cardiff Council
Cllr Lynda Thorne          City of Cardiff Council
Cllr Michael Michael      City of Cardiff Council
Cllr Peter Bradbury       City of Cardiff Council
Cllr Russell Goodway       City of Cardiff Council
Cllr Sarah Merry           City of Cardiff Council
Cllr Susan Elsmore         City of Cardiff Council
Cllr Debbie Wilcox        City of Newport Council
Cllr Mark Spencer         City of Newport Council
Cllr Mark Whitcutt        City of Newport Council
Cllr Chris Hughes         Conwy County Borough Council
Cllr Gareth Jones OBE      Conwy County Borough Council
Cllr Nigel Smith           Conwy County Borough Council
Cllr Hugh Evans OBE        Denbighshire County Council
Cllr Julian Thompson-Hill  Denbighshire County Council
Cllr Aaron Shotton        Flintshire County Council
Cllr Bernie Attridge      Flintshire County Council
Cllr Michelle Perfect      Flintshire County Council
Cllr Tony Sharps           Flintshire County Council
Cllr Dafydd Meurig         Gwynedd Council
Cllr Dyfrig Siencyn       Gwynedd Council
Cllr Gareth Thomas        Gwynedd Council
Cllr Ieuan Williams       Isle of Anglesey County Council
Cllr Llinos Medi          Isle of Anglesey County Council
Cllr Kevin O'Neill        Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council
Cllr Lisa Mytton          Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council
Cllr Peter O'Neill        Monmouthshire County Council
Cllr Robert Greenbank     Monmouthshire County Council
Cllr Anthony Taylor       Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
Cllr Carol Clement-Williams Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
Cllr Rob G Jones          Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
Cllr David Simpson        Pembrokeshire County Council
Cllr Neil Prior           Pembrokeshire County Council
Cllr Paul Miller          Pembrokeshire County Council
Cllr Aled Davies          Powys County Council
Cllr Rosemarie Harris     Powys County Council
Cllr Stephen Hayes       Powys County Council
Cllr Andrew Morgan        Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
Cllr Geraint Hopkins      Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
Cllr Rhys Lewis           Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
Cllr Maureen Webber       Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
Cllr Robert Bevan         Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
Cllr Anthony Hunt         Torfaen County Borough Council
Cllr Richard Clark        Torfaen County Borough Council
Cllr Gordon Kemp (until 21/03/19) Vale of Glamorgan Council
Cllr Ben Gray (from 21/03/19) Vale of Glamorgan Council
Cllr Hunter Jarvie Vale of Glamorgan Council
Cllr John W Thomas Vale of Glamorgan Council
Cllr Hugh Jones Wrexham County Borough Council
Cllr Mark Pritchard Wrexham County Borough Council
Cllr T Alan Edwards Wrexham County Borough Council

Cllr Gareth Ratcliffe Brecon Beacons National Park Authority
Cllr Mike James Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority
Cllr Alwyn Gruffydd Snowdonia National Park Authority

Cllr Tudor Davies South Wales Fire & Rescue Authority
Cllr Rowland Rees-Evans Mid & West Wales Fire & Rescue Authority
Cllr Meirick Lloyd Davies North Wales Fire & Rescue Authority

**WLGA Audit Committee Membership 2018-19**

Cllr Linda Evans (Chair) Carmarthenshire County Council
Cllr Stephen Hayes Powys County Council
Cllr Julian Thompson-Hill Denbighshire County Council
Cllr Maureen Webber Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
Cllr Christopher Weaver City of Cardiff Council