

Concise Minutes – Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee

Meeting Venue:

Committee Room 3 – Senedd

Meeting date: Thursday, 23 January
2020

Meeting time: 09.18 – 14.54

This meeting can be viewed

on [Senedd TV](#) at:

<http://senedd.tv/en/5958>

Attendance

Category	Names
Assembly Members:	John Griffiths AM (Chair) Mark Isherwood AM Leanne Wood AM Joyce Watson AM Delyth Jewell AM
Witnesses:	Daniel Hurford, Welsh Local Government Association Dr Chris Llewelyn, Welsh Local Government Association Ray Quant, Ceredigion County Council Huw Thomas, Cardiff Council Emlyn Dole, Carmarthenshire County Council Peter Fox, Monmouthshire County Council Michelle Morris, SOLACE Wales Rob Thomas, SOLACE Wales Davina Fiore, Lawyers in Local Government



Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru

National
Assembly for
Wales

Committee Staff:	<p>Naomi Stocks (Clerk)</p> <p>Catherine Hunt (Second Clerk)</p> <p>Yan Thomas (Deputy Clerk)</p> <p>Jonathan Baxter (Researcher)</p> <p>Osian Bowyer (Researcher)</p> <p>Stephen Davies (Legal Adviser)</p>
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1 Welsh Government Draft Budget 2020 – 21: consideration of draft report

1.1 The Committee considered and agreed the Welsh Government Draft Budget 2020 – 21 report with minor changes.

2 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest

2.1 The Chair welcomed Members and members of the public to the meeting.

2.2 Apologies for absence were received from Caroline Jones AM and Huw Irranca-Davies AM. Leanne Wood AM sent her apologies for the afternoon session. Delyth Jewell AM and Joyce Watson substituted for them in accordance with Standing Order 17.48.

3 Local Government and Elections (Wales) Bill: evidence session 12

3.1 The Committee received evidence from:

- Cllr Huw Thomas, Leader of Cardiff Council, WLGA Labour Group and WLGA Spokesperson for Culture, Tourism and Major Events
- Cllr Emlyn Dole, Leader of Carmarthenshire County Council, WLGA Plaid Cymru Group Leader
- Cllr Peter Fox, Leader of Monmouthshire County Council, WLGA Conservative Group Leader
- Cllr Ray Quant, Deputy Leader of Ceredigion County Council, WLGA Deputy Presiding Officer

- Chris Llewelyn, Chief Executive, Welsh Local Government Association
- Daniel Hurford, Head of Policy, Welsh Local Government Association

3.2 During the meeting, the witnesses agreed to provide further case studies on the General Power of Competence and where it has been used effectively by English local authorities.

4 Local Government and Elections (Wales) Bill: evidence session 13

4.1 The Committee received evidence from:

- Rob Thomas, Chair, SOLACE Wales
- Michelle Morris, Vice Chair & Workforce Portfolio Lead, SOLACE Wales

5 Local Government and Elections (Wales) Bill: evidence session 14

5.1 The Committee received evidence from:

Davina Fiore, Lawyers in Local Government

6 Papers to note

6.1 Correspondence from the Local Government Association regarding the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Bill – 6 January 2020

6.1a The Committee noted the correspondence from the Local Government Association regarding the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Bill.

6.2 Correspondence from Chris Highcock regarding the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Bill – 14 January 2020

6.2a The Committee noted correspondence from Chris Highcock regarding the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Bill.

6.3 Correspondence from Arfon Jones, North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner regarding the Committee's report on mental health and substance misuse services for rough sleepers – 13 January 2020

6.3a The Committee noted correspondence from the North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner regarding the Committee's report on mental health and substance misuse services for rough sleepers.

6.4 Correspondence from the Deputy Minister for Housing & Local Government regarding the benefits in Wales report response – 13 January 2020

6.4a The Committee noted correspondence from the Deputy Minister for Housing & Local Government regarding the benefits in Wales report response.

6.5 Wales Centre for Public Policy report – Administering social security in Wales: Evidence on potential reforms – 14 January 2020

6.5a The Committee noted a report by the Wales Centre for Public Policy report: Administering social security in Wales – Evidence on potential reforms.

6.6 Correspondence from the Minister for Housing and Local Government regarding fire safety in high-rise buildings – 13 January 2020

6.6a The Committee noted correspondence from the Minister for Housing and Local Government regarding fire safety in high-rise buildings.

7 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 (vi) to resolve to exclude the public from the remainder of the meeting

7.1 The Committee agreed the motion.

8 Local Government and Elections (Wales) Bill: consideration of evidence

8.1 The Committee considered the evidence received under items 3,4 and 5.