

Our Ref/Ein Cyf:
Your Ref/Eich Cyf:
Date/Dyddiad:
Please ask for/Gofynnwch am:
Direct line/Llinell uniongyrchol:
Email/Ebost:

Friday 7th December 2012
Sarah Titcombe
029 20 468 638
sarah.titcombe@wlga.gov.uk



WLGA • CLILC

To: Chairs of Democratic Services Committees and Member Development Champions
cc. Heads of Democratic Services and Members Services Officers

Dear Councillor,

I have already met a number of you during recent months, through local induction and member development sessions or at the national Member Development network meeting in September.

I thought it would be useful to write to all Chairs of Democratic Services Committees and Member Development Champions however to remind you about support available from the WLGA.

The WLGA has a long-track record of working with members and officers in local authorities in order to improve training, development and support for councillors. We have traditionally worked closely with Member Development Champions, and will continue to do so, but recognise that Democratic Services Committees are now increasingly involved in shaping local support and resources. The recently published Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Bill also seeks to clarify the role of Democratic Services Committees further (see Section 56).

You should hopefully be familiar with much of our support already, for example, the information we provided for prospective candidates and the Councillors guide following the elections. We have also provided over 100 workshops and training events in authorities since the elections on for example scrutiny, cabinet development, personal development review, chairing and mentoring. We also work closely with authorities to provide advice and guidance and provide local support around member development strategies and submissions for the new criteria for the Wales Charter for Member Support and Development. For further information, attached is our Member Development and Support prospectus for 2012-13. All of our support is free of charge and very much led by your authority's individual needs. All of our resources are available via our website - <http://www.wlga.gov.uk/english/member-development/>.

The WLGA also works with the LGA and Academi Wales in providing the Leadership Programme for elected members. Although this is fully booked for the programme starting in January, more opportunities will be available later in the year. Further information is available online at

Steve Thomas
Chief Executive
Prif Weithredwr

Welsh Local Government
Association
Local Government House
Drake Walk
CARDIFF CF10 4LG
Tel: 029 2046 8600
Fax: 029 2046 8601

Cymdeithas Llywodraeth
Leol Cymru
Tŷ Llywodraeth Leol
Rhodfa Drake
CAERDYDD CF10 4LG
Ffôn: 029 2046 8600
Ffacs: 029 2046 8601

www.wlga.gov.uk

<http://www.wlga.gov.uk/english/leadership-programme-for-elected-members-2012-13/>

Many new members participated in the regional induction session provided by the WLGA and we are holding a further session on January 29th in mid Wales for those newly elected members who were unable to attend the regional events, please let us know if colleagues would be interested in attending.

As mentioned above, the WLGA already convenes a national Member Development Network, which is generally attended by Members Services Officers (and increasingly Heads of Democratic Services) and a member lead from most authorities (the authority determines which member is most appropriate to attend, usually either the Member Development Champion or the Chair of Democratic Services). We are meeting with Members Services Officers next week and the next member network is scheduled for 19th March in the Elan Valley. We also meet regularly with Scrutiny Officers and have recently established thematic national Scrutiny Chairs' Networks:

- 16 November 2012 Corporate Policy and Performance
- 29 November 2012 Education/Lifelong Learning
- 7 December 2012 Regeneration/Economic Development
- 11 January 2013 Environment
- 24 January 2013 Social Services/Health
- 29 January 2013 Housing

Should you require further information on any of our activities or would like me to meet with you or your committee to further explore any of the work described above, please get in touch.

Yours sincerely,



Sarah Titcombe
Organisational and Personal Development Advisor