

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

**County Council
5 October 2023**

**REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor James Gibson-Watt
Leader**

SUBJECT: Question from County Councillor Aled Davies

How much does WLGA membership cost the Council?

The WLGA annual subscription is £115,799.66 (£96,499.72 plus VAT £19,299.94).

The Welsh Local Government Association (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.

The WLGA represents the interests of local government and promotes local democracy in Wales. Its 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 services and democracy.

The WLGA is a politically led cross party organisation that seeks to give local government a strong voice at a national level. Membership of the Welsh Local Government Association gives this Council a seat at the top table when negotiating with and lobbying Welsh Government. It gives access to Ministers and influence that individual councils would not have on their own.

The WLGA is recognised under the statutory Local Government Partnership Scheme as the negotiating body representing local government. 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.

The WLGA is a resource for Councils to tap into and share expertise and good practice through cabinet member networks and policy papers. The Chief Executive of the WLGA has recently advised this Council on the appointment of a new Chief Executive. It also offers support in member development and for years this council

has benefited by sending councillors from all political groups to the leadership academy.