



AGENDA

For the Quarterly Meeting of the Association to be held on
Friday 14th July 2017 at the Civic Halls Connah's Quay

1. Record of attendance

To record attendance and any apologies for absence.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

To approve the minutes of the last quarterly meeting (see enclosed at appendix A)

3. Actions taken since the last meeting

To receive a report on actions taken since the last meeting.

4. Financial Report

To receive a financial report.

5. Executive

To receive the minutes of the Executive Meeting. (see enclosed at appendix B)

6. Local Government Re-organisation

To consider an update on the Local Government Review.

7. Recycling and Fly Tipping

To consider an update on Powys Re-cycling situation.

To consider supporting an approach to Parliament and Welsh Government to seek a change in packaging rules. (to introduce legislation to make packaging recyclable – ie rice paper fast food trays)

8. Remuneration Panel for Wales

To consider an update from Member Councils on their approach to the report given at the last meeting.

9. Montgomeryshire Canal

To consider writing a letter of support to the re-opening of the Montgomeryshire Canal from Pant to Newtown in Powys and asking the Welsh Government to give a priority to such a project.



10. Rail Franchise for Wales

To consider sending a formal letter to Welsh Government and the Welsh Transport Delivery Unit stating the policy of the association as follows:

*To support the electrification of the North Wales Coast rail line.
(Holyhead to Crewe)*

*To support the introduction of a full hourly service on the main
Cambrian line.*

11. Association Plan 2017-2022 : Educational

To consider what might be suggested to Welsh Government to help with:

- i) Class sizes
- ii) Abilities when moving schools
- iii) Other matters affecting education within our schools

(see appendix C for some news reports)

12. Dates of future meetings

To note the dates of the next meetings as follows:

Quarterly Meetings

Friday 27th October 2017

Friday 19th January 2018

Friday 20th April 2018

Friday 20th July 2018 the Civic Halls of Connah's Quay.

All meetings start at 10.30am

Executive Meetings

Friday 22nd September 2017

Friday 8th December 2017

Friday 9th March 2018

Friday 8th June 2018

10.30am start in all cases. Meetings held at Rhyl Town Council Offices.



APPENDIX A



MINUTES

of the Quarterly Meeting of the Association held in the
Royal Oak Hotel on
Friday 21st April 2017 at the The Royal Oak Welshpool

Record of attendance:

Council	Present	Apologies
Officers	Cllr B C Roberts (Chair) Cllr Joan Butterfield (President) Robert Robinson (Secretary & Treasurer) Remuneration Panel Mr Greg Owens Vice-Chair Mr Stephen Mulholland Mrs Julie May Mrs Sarah Willey	Cllr H Meredith (Vice Chair) -
ABERGELE TOWN COUNCIL	Cllr R Waters	Cllr John A MacLennan
ARGOED COMMUNITY COUNCIL	R Hampson Jones Cllr D Jenkins John Holliday	
BANGOR CITY COUNCIL	Cllr D Hainge I Jones Town Clerk	Cllr E Butler
BAGILLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL	Cllr C R Williams	
BAY OF COLWYN TOWN COUNCIL	Cllr Lindsay Griffiths Cllr S Roy	Cllr J Davies Mayor Cllr J Pearson Dep Mayor
BUCKLEY TOWN COUNCIL	Cllr A Woolley	Cllr J J M Woolley
CAERWYS TOWN COUNCIL		
CAIA PARK COMMUNITY CONCIL		
CONNAH'S QUAY TOWN COUNCIL	Cllr P Attridge Cllr E Faulkner S Goodrum (Clerk)	Cllr C Grainger
CONWY TOWN COUNCIL		
DENBIGH TOWN COUNCIL	Cllr R Tickle	Cllr M Bowe

NORTH AND MID WALES ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

CYMDEITHAS CYNGHORAU TREFI A CHYMDEITHASAU MWYAF GOGLEDD CYMRU



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FLINT TOWN COUNCIL	Cllr Terry Renshaw A Loveridge Clerk	L Jones Cllr David Cox
HAWARDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL		
HOLYWELL TOWN COUNCIL		C Pearce Town Clerk Cllr K Davies Cllr P York Cllr P Curtis
LLANFAIR CAEREINION TOWN COUNCIL		Viki Griffiths Clerk
LLANDUDNO TOWN COUNCIL		Cllr B Bertola
LLANASA TOWN COUNCIL		Cllr S Harris
LLANFAIRFECHAN TOWN COUNCIL		
LLANDRINO & ARDLEEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL		C Davies (Clerk)
LLANDYSILIO COMMUNITY COUNCIL		C Davies (Clerk) Cllr Frances Buckingham
LLANGOLLEN TOWN COUNCIL		
MENAI BRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL		
PENMAENMAWR TOWN COUNCIL		Cllr M Ob Wain Cllr M Baines
PRESTATYN TOWN COUNCIL		
RHUDDLAN TOWN COUNCIL		Cllr M Kernode
RHYL TOWN COUNCIL	Cllr A James Cllr G Nickels	Cllr AD Simmons Cllr J Chamberlain Jones
RUTHIN TOWN COUNCIL	Cllr E Wynne Cllr S Beach	
SHOTTON TOWN COUNCIL	Cllr P Morton Mrs Morton	
ST ASAPH CITY COUNCIL	Cllr P G Morton	
TOWYN AND KINMEL BAY TOWN COUNCIL		
WELSHPOOL TOWN COUNCIL	Cllr A Bowen Cllr H Chave	Cllr N Morris

1. Introductions

The Chair lead the meeting in a short time of silence in memory of Cllr John T Jones (Charlie) who passed away recently.



2. Welcome by the Mayor of Welshpool

The meeting received a welcome by the Mayor of Welshpool Town Council

3. Notice of the meeting

The meeting received the notice of the meeting.

4. Minutes of the last meeting

The meeting approved the minutes of the last quarterly meeting.

5. Speaker for the meeting

The meeting received a presentation from the Remuneration Panel for Wales.

Concern was expressed over the funding of such determinations.

A copy of the presentation is attached to the minutes.

A link to the Web Site will be added to the Association Web Site.

See appendix A for copy of presentation.

6. Actions taken since the last meeting

The meeting received a report on actions taken since the last meeting.

- i) Clarification on Fracking issues where cross borders are involved was given.
- ii) The Publication of the Future Plan with alterations has been completed and posted on the web site.
- iii) Recycling issues have been placed on this agenda.
- iv) Speaker for the next meeting has been arranged.

7. Financial Report

The meeting received the financial report as per that attached to the agenda.

8. Executive

The meeting received the minutes of the Executive Meeting.

9. Local Government Re-organisation

The meeting was updated on the following:

- a) A statement from the Minister is expected in September/October on the future of Town and Community Councils.
- b) The Boundary Commission is reviewing Council Wards which will need a proactive approach when each areas is brought forward.
The Secretary explained the approach taken in Welshpool.

There is likely to be much more to discuss at the October meeting.



10. Hospital update North and Mid Wales

The meeting received a short update each areas hospital situation as follows:

North Wales

The Trust is still in special measures. There is some written updated information available which Ian Jones can give to members.

Mid Wales

The decision on the location of emergency and urgent care centres in Shrewsbury and Telford is still awaited.

The retention of the Children and Babies unit at Telford has been confirmed.

11. Future Plan for the Association

The Future Plan was formally adopted and will now form Policy of the Association for the period to 2020.

12. Recycling and Fly Tipping

The meeting consider the situation in each Member area with regards to household and recycling centres and the level of fly tipping experienced. It is clear that many areas share the concerns around increases in fly tipping.

There was also reference to High Energy Burners with differing viewpoints presented.

Following an extensive discussion the following is to be taken forward:

The Secretary is to prepare a paper for approval at the Annual Meeting setting out the concerns of the Association and to seek confirmation from Government that action will be taken to control waste at source.

The Secretary is to respond to the Fly Tipping consultation by Welsh Government supporting the principle of on the spot fines. The meeting wishes to include a higher level of fines.

13. Elections

The Chair wished everyone all the best for the elections to be held on Thursday 4th May 2017 and thanked people for their commitment to the Association and its work.

14. Elections at the Annual Meeting of the Association

The secretary reminded the meeting of the arrangements for the election of President for the next electoral term. Any nominations must be serving Councillors.

NORTH AND MID WALES ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS



CYMDEITHAS CYNGHORAU TREFI A CHYMDEITHASAU HWYAF GOGLEDD CYMRU



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CYMDEITHAS CYNGHORAU TREFI A CHYMDEITHASAU HWYAF GOGLEDD CYMRU



15. Dates of future meetings

The meeting noted the dates of the next meetings.

Quarterly Meetings

Friday 14th July 2017 the Civic Halls of Connah's Quay.

All meetings start at 10.30am

Executive Meetings

Friday 9th June 2017

10.30am start in all cases. Meetings held at Rhyl Town Council Offices.



MINUTES

of the Executive Meeting of the Association held on
Friday 23rd June 2017 at 10.30am
at the offices of Rhyl Town Council

- 1. Present were:**
Cllr B Roberts Chair, Cllr J Butterfield President and Robert Robinson Secretary.
- 2. Apologies for absence**
Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr H Meredith.
- 2. Minutes of the last meeting**
The meeting approved the minutes of the last meeting.
- 3. Actions taken since the last meeting**
The secretary gave an update on actions taken since the last quarterly meeting. In particular was the arranging for the Police and Crime Commissioner to attend the July Meeting. This is not now possible but he will be able to attend the October Meeting.
- 4. Financial Report**
The meeting considered the financial report from the secretary including the annual accounts. The meeting noted and was pleased to note a reasonable surplus on the Associations activities during the year.
- 5. Cheque signatories**
The current cheque signatories are dwindling in number. The recommendation is that all Executive Members elected in 2017 should be invited to be cheque signatories. The current cheque protocol is to continue with 2 signatures required being the Secretary and one Councillor from the Association.
- 6. Annual Meeting Agenda**
The meeting considered the annual meeting agenda as per enclosed with the agenda. This was approved subject to the addition of the cheque signatory's item.



7. Quarterly Meeting Agenda

The meeting considered the quarterly meeting agenda as enclosed with the agenda. The item of speaker is to be replaced by a discussion Education (as per the Association Plan 2017-2022).

8. Election of the President

To note the election process for President for the period July 2017 to July 2022. The Secretary is to ascertain from the Constitution if a current president can stand for a second term.

9. Dates of future meetings

The meeting accepted the schedule of dates for 2017 and 2018 as per the annual meeting agenda.



APPENDIX C

ESTYN REPORT WALES

Key findings of Estyn annual report in Wales

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Estyn's annual report is a wide-ranging review of how schools, further education colleges and other places of learning are performing, following a year of inspections.

The gap between education establishments which are doing well and those that are not is still too wide, the watchdog said.

Altogether inspectors looked at 178 primary schools and 33 secondary schools in 2015-16, as well as two further education colleges, workplace learning places, special schools and pupil referral units.

Here is a summary of findings in key areas:

TEACHING

Teaching is one of the weakest aspects of provision in most sectors.

There is a tendency towards ticking boxes in lesson planning. Teachers may therefore become too concerned with following procedures rather than thinking creatively about the best way to encourage learners to achieve

Where teaching has shortcomings, leaders do not have a clear idea of what needs to be improved. Too few schools help staff to make the best of professional learning opportunities.



PRIMARY SCHOOLS

- Seven out of 10 primary schools inspected this year are good or better, an improvement on the previous year
- The proportion of excellence in primary schools continues to increase, to 22% this year from 18% last year
- Only seven primary schools (4%) were placed in a statutory intervention category after inspections - a reduction on the 20 schools (9%) identified last year
- Many pupils do not have a strong enough grasp of the full range of ICT skills
- Pupils' literacy skills continue to improve. In Key Stage 2, standards of literacy are good in about two-thirds of schools inspected. Outcomes improved across all core subjects

Inspectors highlighted good practice and successes, such as the year-on-year rise in literacy standards at Kitchener Primary School in inner city Cardiff. Here 27 different languages are spoken and English is spoken as an additional language by 86% of pupils. The school uses educational visits, a buddy system and story-telling as part of introducing new words, encouraging pupils to speak and making learning exciting.

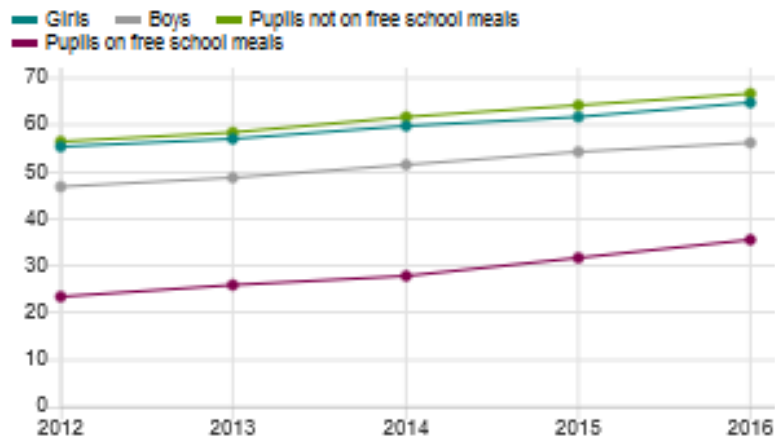


Nicola Richards, acting head of Tonnau Primary School, which was praised by Estyn, said the school constantly challenges itself to improve



Performance at secondary school - key stage 4

% getting GCSE A*-C core inc Eng/Welsh and Maths



Welsh Government



SECONDARY SCHOOLS

- Only four out of 10 of the secondary schools inspected are rated good or better - the same as last year
- The proportion of secondary schools identified as having some excellence has decreased to about a quarter this year from 38% last year
- There is more excellent and unsatisfactory practice in the secondary sector than in primary schools
- This increasing variation as children become older is also seen in the gap between girls' and boys' performance and the gap between the performance of pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers - (see the chart above)
- The number of schools requiring monitoring by Estyn rose from 35% last year to 48% this year

www.gov.wales

School pupils by numbers

Wales, 2016

276,950 pupils in 1,310 primary schools - a rise of 3,550 on 2015

178,650 pupils in 205 secondary schools - down 3,700

8,000 pupils in 34 independent schools

4,540 pupils in 32 independent special schools

730 in 25 pupil referral units

Estyn annual report





EARLY EXAMS - UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES

The growing trend of entering pupils early for exams like maths can reduce time for teaching and learning and students can end up sitting exams with an incomplete understanding of the subject.

SPECIAL SCHOOLS AND UNITS

Inspection outcomes for maintained special schools are not as good this year compared with previous years and outcomes for pupil referral units (Estyn inspected four of the 25 PRUs) remain poor.

MORE ABLE PUPILS

A common theme in inspections was "underachievement of more able learners, including those from deprived backgrounds".

In about a third of primary schools, more able pupils do not make enough progress because the work they are set is not challenging enough.

In secondary schools, GCSE and A level results should be better at higher grades.



DIGITAL LEARNING

The potential of digital learning is being fully realised in "very few" schools.

But the report highlights work done at Comist Park Community Primary School in Flint, where there are pupils acting as leaders on digital learning and events to educate parents about digital technology in the home.

WELSH LANGUAGE

Standards of Welsh second language in many English-medium schools are improving, but most pupils lack confidence when speaking Welsh.

Meanwhile, in Welsh-medium schools, many pupils speak and write well in Welsh and use their language skills confidently across the curriculum.



School attendance

% of statutory school age pupils in Wales



Welsh Government/Estyn

BBC

ATTENDANCE AND BEHAVIOUR

Attendance is improving and rates of persistent absence continue to fall.

Many pupils behave well, are punctual and have positive attitudes to their learning.

In a few schools, the rate of persistent absence remains high and the attendance of pupils eligible for free schools meals is significantly worse than in similar schools.

REFLECTIONS ON PISA RESULTS

The latest disappointing international Pisa results, which came out in December, "continue to highlight important weaknesses in Welsh education".

Too many pupils lack basic skills in science, maths and reading and too few pupils work at the highest levels in these subjects.

Schools from the foundation phase onwards need to ensure that pupils develop strong foundations in these essential subjects.

COLLEGES

Two of Wales' 13 further education colleges were inspected and both were identified as having excellent practice.

Gaps between colleges' performance are narrow.

Coleg Cambria - one of the largest in the UK with more than 21,000 students and created out of a merger of Deeside College and Yale College in 2013 - is praised for its excellence.