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Leadership Programme for Councillors in Wales 2023 – 2024



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Leadership Programme for Councillors in Wales 2023 – 2024

Political leaders in local government are facing unprecedented challenges due to the ongoing impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, austerity, cost of living and local government reform. The Leadership Programme for Councillors in Wales is an opportunity for leaders, and those in leadership positions, to explore the latest thinking in political leadership, and equip themselves with the knowledge and skills they need to rise to these challenges.

The programme is delivered through a partnership with Academi Wales, Welsh Government and the Welsh Local Government Association. Academi Wales are working with the Institute of Leadership & Management (ILM) for programme recognition.

The programme provides an environment where councillors from across the political spectrum can meet experienced councillors from other councils and parties to discuss common issues. The combination of learning from experts in the field of leadership and from the experience of their peers gives programme participants confidence in their abilities and a new network of trusted colleagues.

The programme is informal and highly interactive, which offers the opportunity for an engaging and thought-provoking learning environment. Each programme is limited to 25 councillors ensuring that everyone has an opportunity to participate.

What previous participants said about the programme:

“This is by far the best training for members I have been on.”

“The examples of good practice were particularly helpful as were the opportunities to hear about different experiences.”

“I would genuinely recommend this course to all members, it’s outstanding.”

“The session from the council leader was invaluable, practical and inspiring!”

“It has all been extremely useful. I have a lot of action points and areas to improve on, and applying the leadership challenge is exciting.”

“All facilitators were incredibly helpful, open and receptive. Each facilitator brought an excellent part of the programme to life, thought provoking throughout”.

“Excellent, thought provoking, inspired to action.”

“I enjoyed networking with the many leaders on the course. I look forward to expanding on these newly formed relationships.”

“Excellent two days. Learned a lot from the presenters and the other delegates. Lots of food for thought.”

How does it work?

The Leadership Programme for Councillors in Wales is a modular development programme comprising of three, two-day modules over a three-month period.

Module 1 (residential) focuses on leading through relationships. This module enables participants to identify their personal leadership styles, strengths and weaknesses and explores how councillors can develop, maintain and use relationships (both internal and external) to provide effective leadership at the political, organisational and wider community levels.

Module 2 (virtual, non-consecutive days) looks at leading innovation and change. This module will develop councillors’ ability to lead and manage complex changes to improve effectiveness and efficiency and to achieve better outcomes for their citizens and their communities.

Module 3 (residential) explores leading communities and place. The focus is on helping councillors to communicate with and provide leadership to their communities and within partnerships to achieve growth and prosperity.

Between modules councillors will be encouraged to continue conversations, share developing practice and prepare for the next module. Following the programme, participants will be given opportunities to continue discussions in the action learning sets established during the programme.

Who is it for?

This programme is open to senior councillors in Wales, including leaders, leaders of political groups, executive members, opposition spokespeople and scrutiny chairs. Many councils view it as an opportunity to promote succession planning and the development of future lead councillors. Programmes are cross-party and restricted to 25 councillors at any one session to ensure maximum participation.

We offer 2 guaranteed places per council across the two programmes. Depending on the level of demand we may be able to offer additional places; however, no more than 4 councillors from each council can take part.



When?

North Wales Programme 1 (weekends)
Module 1: 23 – 24 September 2023 (Residential)
Module 2: 28 & 30 October 2023 (Virtual: non-consecutive days)
Module 3: 18 – 19 November 2023 (Residential)
South Wales Programme 2 (weekdays)
Module 1: 17 – 18 January 2024 (Residential)
Module 2: 21 & 23 February 2024 (Virtual: non-consecutive days)
Module 3: 13 – 14 March 2024 (Residential)

How much does it cost?

The Leadership Programme for Councillors in Wales is provided at no cost to councils and is funded by Academi Wales, Welsh Government. Academi Wales will provide accommodation for councillors on the night between the two days of modules 1 and 3. This will include a single room on a dinner, bed and breakfast basis and will not include the cost of any alcohol.

Councils will need to fund travelling expenses and any additional accommodation and catering required before or after modules 1 and 3. Councillors wishing to make these additional arrangements must do so via their Democratic Services Officer, who will contact the venue directly. Any associated costs must be reclaimed through your council's usual travel and subsistence process.



How do I book a place?

It is important you read the frequently asked questions on the Leadership Programme for Councillors in Wales web page before you book your place.

Nomination

Your council will have a procedure for prioritising and nominating councillors to attend the programme. We offer 2 guaranteed places per council across the two programmes. Depending on the level of demand, we may be able to offer a first and second reserve place. However, no more than 4 councillors from your council can take part.

1. Please discuss your nomination with your Democratic Services Officer.
2. When the Council has decided who will attend, Heads of Democratic Services will email AW.BoardLeadership@gov.wales to provide details of up to 4 nominated councillors. We require the following details for each councillor:
 - name
 - email address
 - position/role within the council
 - preferred programme (North / South / Either)
 - type of nomination (guaranteed place / first reserve / second reserve).

While we will do our best to secure the preferred location, we cannot guarantee it.

3. Heads of Democratic Services will receive confirmation of the councillors who have been offered a place. They must then inform the relevant councillors.
4. Councillors with a confirmed place can book themselves onto the programme through the Academi Wales website.

Closing date

The closing date for receipt of nominations is **16th June 2023**.

academiwales.gov.wales/courses-and-events/programmes/leadership-programme-for-councillors-in-wales

More information

Before applying for this programme, it is important you read the frequently asked questions web page at:

academiwales.gov.wales/courses-and-events/programmes/leadership-programme-for-councillors-in-wales

Please contact WLGA.Improvement@wlga.gov.uk if you require further information about the programme content.

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