

Lesley Griffiths AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Llywodraeth Leol a Busnes y Llywodraeth
Minister for Local Government and Government Business



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: MB/LG/2874/14

Christine Chapman AM
Chair, Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

15 July 2014

Dear Christine,

During my appearance at the Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee on 25 June, I undertook to write to you with additional information.

In relation to the possible merger of Local Authorities, the Committee asked about the situation in which one Council inherited a deficit from another. This situation would not occur. There are long-standing statutory duties on Principal Authorities to deliver a balanced budget each year. These duties prevent them from being in a position where they go into deficit. Similarly, Authorities can only enter into borrowing arrangements where they have made clear provision for the repayment of their borrowing.

As part of monitoring the grant to Town and Community Councils for websites, my officials will be writing to all Principal Councils next month to gather information regarding the number of Town and Community Councils who took advantage of the funding available to them. I will share this information with you as soon as possible.

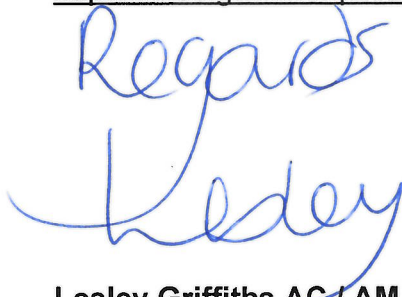
Regarding Town and Community Council long-term vacant Council seats, I will also write to Principal Councils in order to have accurate and up to date information. I will update the Committee in the Autumn. In the meantime, information on vacant seats at Community Council elections from 2012/13 can be found on page 105 of the report by the Commission on Public Service Governance and Delivery.

The Welsh Government carried out a survey of Local Government Councillors and Candidates following the May 2012 elections, I attach a link to the Local Government Candidates Survey Data.

<http://wales.gov.uk/statistics-and-research/local-government-candidates-survey/?lang=en>

I also attach a link to the Expert Group Report on Diversity. Page 15 contains a table of age, gender and ethnicity statistics.

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/localgovernment/publications/expert-group-report/?lang=en>

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lesley Griffiths', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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