

Councillor Debbie Wilcox
Leader
Welsh Local Government Association

5 June 2018

Dear Councillor Wilcox

You may be aware that the Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee has today launched an inquiry into diversity in local government. The terms of reference for the inquiry are:

- To understand the importance of diversity among local councillors, including the effect on public engagement, debate and decision making;
- To understand key barriers to attracting a more diverse pool of candidates for local government elections;
- To explore areas of innovation and good practice that may help increase diversity in local government;
- To explore the potential impact of the proposals in the Welsh Government's Green Paper, Strengthening Local Government to increasing diversity in Council chambers.


I have written to all council leaders and chief executives inviting them to submit written evidence to inform our work. The Committee is also keen to hear about the experiences of local representatives. To this end, we have devised a survey for councillors and have requested that leaders draw it to the attention of their members. We are also hoping to meet members locally to discuss any barriers they may have faced when standing for election and how they overcame these.



The Committee will begin its oral evidence sessions early in the autumn term. I would like to extend an invitation to you to attend one of these sessions and have asked the Clerking team to liaise with your officials in this regard.

The Welsh Local Government Association has an important role to play in promoting local democracy and encouraging diversity and has demonstrated a continuing commitment to this agenda. I trust that your members will engage positively with our work and I look forward to your appearance before the Committee.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John". The letters are cursive and fluid, with a long horizontal stroke for the 'J'.

John Griffiths AM
Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

